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THE
H I S T O R Y
O F
MISS SOMMERVILE.
VOL. II.

THE
HISTORICAL
THE
OF
HISTORICAL
MISS SOMMERVILLE
OF
Written by a Lady

MISS SOMMERVILLE

IN THREE VOLUMES

LONDON

LONDON

Printed for Newbery and Barnard, No. 21

the North-Side of St. Paul's Church-Yard

MDCCLXXIX



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Written by a L A D Y.

I N T W O V O L U M E S .

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THE
HISTORY
OF
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LETTER XXXI.

Mr. BRADSHAW to Mr. FLEETWOOD.

WELL, Harry, you have hitherto
been entertained with the love-
lines, the worthiness of Patty
Price: and, notwithstanding my heart
was incapable of receiving a similar im-
pression with Finly, I will now own to
you that I approved her above all her
sex, and prophanely considered her as more

VOL. II.

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than

than mortal ;—but angels and women are a distinct species, and, however darkness or even twilight may deceive us, the sun in his meridian will reveal the cheat.

The object of my approbation was a modest, sensible, well-bred female, whose virtues and accomplishments entitled her to my best esteem ;—not a low vicious wretch, capable of being captivated by the allurements of fortune and blandishments of foppery, — the most contemptible as well as unseasonable of foppery,—that of old age.

Lord Finly will be mad with rage and disappointment ; — but he shall be no longer duped, sunk as she is to infamy ; we will mutually despise her. That ever so miserable a creature as Lord Kennington could form or execute so despicable a design ; and his fine niece, whose perfections I so pleasingly employed myself in describing, and had marked down for a wife for your truly worthy brother,—is neither more nor less than an absolute pandar to her uncle.

I little suspected that our engagement would have been productive of such a discovery.

Lord Finly was reserved, nay, melancholy the whole evening,—mortified, no doubt, from being unable to approach the goddess of his idolatry, who had so artfully placed herself between her friends in iniquity, Lord and Miss Kennington, as to be inaccessible to every other person.

Never did the grand master of deceit— It is to no purpose to dwell upon an unpleasing subject. I have often told you what bewitching graces she is mistress of.

It was by the merest accident on earth that I obtained an evidence of her voluntary acceptance of the wages of sin, a transcript of which I now send you, and must reserve the original for future use.

We were informed that supper was ready.—Rising always occasions some little bustle,—which Bob (I am infinitely obliged to him) took advantage of, and pressing close to Miss Kennington thought himself completely happy.

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She drew her handkerchief hastily from her pocket, in order to conceal her blushing, (for the sweet dissembler that does not hesitate to promote and countenance guilt, affects to be the simplest, shyest thing) and out popt a piece of paper at the same time.

I was at her elbow,—picked it up,—perceived the characters nearly resembling a little poem Patty had shewn me at Holyhead, that she had selected from a favourite author; and was incited by a happy, tho' perhaps mean, curiosity, to slip it into my pocket unobserved by any one: but, without further parade, read the sweet copy of her epistle to Miss Kennington; as also my Lord's vile proposal*.

Ought they to be permitted to enjoy their wickeness unmolested?—No; she shall not impose upon Bob, nor the world in general.—I will make her baseness as public as the day; but not till I have privately reproached and punished her.

* Here the transcripts are given.

I will

I will make her a second visit ; timidity and respect shall not accompany me :—I will by as deep-laid hypocrisy as she herself can practise, draw her out to the utmost—when I will produce this proof of her infamy ! — and strike her dumb for ever !

I am now, beyond measure, convinced that wine may improve our enjoyments ; —but woman !—woman !—totally destroy them. I am, &c.



LETTER XXXII.

MISS PRICE to MISS KENNINGTON.

YOUR prophecy, my dear madam, relative to the mortifying consequence of the lost papers, is already accomplished ; —but be not concerned ; the cruel censurers of our conduct will be the greatest sufferers in the end. I have, indeed, sustained a terrible shock ; — it may be use-

ful to me hereafter, and I am perfectly satisfied.

I was in my proper employment this morning, when I was told a gentleman desired to speak with me. My foolish heart was thrown into an unnecessary palpitation ;—it was not Lord Finly, but the daring Mr. Bradshaw.

His address at first, though polite, was visibly altered ; affectation and nature are widely different.

“ I have presumed, madam, (said he)
“ to repeat my visit somewhat earlier than
“ you seemed to permit me ; but ladies
“ are not always to be understood literally.”

I was a good deal displeased ;—but resolved, if possible, to conceal it.

“ I am sorry, sir, (returned I gravely)
“ that the reasons I urged to prevent
“ your giving yourself this trouble, were
“ not deemed sufficient :—but, however
“ light they may weigh in your estimation,
“ I still see them with the same eyes.”—

“ That is, my dear madam, you are a

“ nice

“ nice observer of forms ; but rather negligent of realities.”

“ I have always considered you as a gentleman, sir ;—it is a comprehensive character ;—and must be uniform or”

“ The gentleman, Miss Price, (returned he, with an air that displeased me) and the peer are not exactly the same thing ;—and perhaps the one may be as incapable of pleasing you as the other of displeasing ; but this I can affirm, that no right honourable coachman in the universe can feel a more lively or disinterested passion for you than I do, though he may have gifts in his power I cannot bestow.”

“ I confess I do not understand you, sir. Plain, intelligent language—not riddle or mystery, are suited to my capacity.”

“ As a proof of my willingness to oblige you, madam, I will come to the purpose. That I love you (nay do not interrupt me) is as true as that I

8 THE HISTORY OF

" exist; — tenderly, ardently love you.
 " My personal merits you are no stranger
 " to: my heart shall be modelled to your
 " wish: why, then, withhold your-
 " self from me? — Accept my hand, my
 " fortune, and make me happy. I would
 " not have offended you by this abrupt
 " declaration, if I did not apprehend some
 " rivalry in your affections. Consent
 " to be mine." —

" Be assured, sir, that, notwithstanding,
 " it is impossible for me to accept your
 " offer" —

" Oh dear Miss Patty! (with a kind
 " of half sneer) do not trouble yourself
 " to invent unmeaning excuses; I know
 " you better than you imagine, and am
 " convinced my proposal is not unwor-
 " thy of you."

" If it is your intention to mortify
 " or distress me, (said I, in accents that
 " must speak my feelings) it is completely
 " answered: but pray, sir, is not this
 " conduct inconsistent no less with hu-
 manity

“manity than politeness: I am a poor
“defenceless abject thing.”—

“Upon my word, madam, (cried he
“eagerly) you are an admirable crea-
“ture!—What powers do you possess!
“—The world is deprived of a most
“excellent tragedian by that beautiful
“reserve, that exquisite modesty, nature
“has bestowed upon you!”

“I will hear no more; I beg, sir, you will
“remove yourself from my sight, with-
“out reducing me to the necessity of ex-
“posing both you and myself.”—

“Expose!—no, no, madam! (pray
“be seated) you are too wise to expose
“yourself voluntarily; but if an accident
“should happen to shew you in your true
“colours, I suppose you would not deny
“your own hand-writing. Why, really,
“miss Patty, (continued he, with a sar-
“castic smile) all this rage and turmoil
“is very unnecessary:—a few words
“are alone sufficient to clear up the mat-
“ter.—Can you, will you persist in your

“assumed

TO THE HISTORY OF M

“assumed obstinacy, and refuse an offer
 “many of your sex (without vanity)
 “would gladly embrace?”

(Never can I forget his confident and
 cruelly satirical countenance.)

“Come, come, (said he) I mean not
 “the least violence;—only you shall not
 “leave this room:—a change of chair,
 “indeed, if one is a greater favourite
 “with you than another, I will not dis-
 “pute; but I will be heard, and answer-
 “ed too, before we part.”

Passion, mortification, self-pity were
 too powerful; I burst into tears, and
 was no less incapable than unwilling to
 reply to such unmerited language.

He, for a few moments, beheld me
 with tender compassion;—but the turbu-
 lent spirit by which he was actuated broke
 out a second time.

“Treacherous fool! (exclaimed he,
 “with a vehemence that startled me) —
 “my own heart, I mean, madam!—This
 “love is a most diabolical business!—

“Now

“ Now could I almost distrust my own
 “ senses !—admire, believe you as much
 “ as ever !—but with so undeniable an
 “ evidence of your *virtue*, in my pocket,
 “ the imposition cannot be digested.”

“ I think, sir, (said I) considering the
 “ treatment I have met with, it is too
 “ condescending even to tell you, you are
 “ grossly abused. There is not an ac-
 “ tion of my life that I should blush to
 “ acknowledge: nay, a settled purpose
 “ of my heart, that could make me
 “ ashamed !”—

“ I shall be mad !—but I am cured ;
 “ madam, (cried he, affecting composure)
 “ it is not of the least consequence to
 “ me ;—(adding with no small altera-
 “ tion both of voice and countenance) I
 “ only wish I had never seen your face ;
 “ —yet it will be of use to me,—as the
 “ remembrance must defend me from
 “ all future hypocrisy.”

“ Since you are so very genteel (said I,
 “ half trembling with apprehension and
 “ resentment)

“resentment) as to compel me to listen
“to your conversation, will you give me
“leave, sir, to ask in turn, what evidence
“you may be possessed of to my disadvantage?”

“Only this letter (returned he, with an
“insulting air)—I presume you know
“the superscription, and may, perhaps,
“recollect the contents without my assistance.”

I immediately recognized my own handwriting; but had no suspicion that it was the only opportunity he could have had of seeing me unworthily: I, therefore very composedly said, “You will please to indulge me with a sight of the date, at least,—as I have wrote too many letters to that Lady for it to be possible for me to conjecture which of them that may be.”

“Why, madam, (said he, with a mixture of scorn and exultation) but I beg your pardon,—you are a nominal lady,
“have a substantial coach and six; and, for

“the

“ *the rest, Miss Kennington and you can settle it.*—No fits!—you are, indeed, a heroine! Lord Finly shall know how deserving you are of his best regard,—and the heart-wounded Fleetwood be made acquainted with Miss Kennington’s worth. — Now I think it is but natural that you should lay aside your state.—The favours you confer upon his Lordship are abundantly too precious for him alone.—Admit me to a participation, and you shall find me all love, gratitude, and secrecy. I will deliver up this letter,—leave every one undeceived,—and contrive a place of audience for you more suitable to your taste than your present one. I cannot be happy without you; for I, as well as the contemptible Lord Kennington, am sensible that you are *one of the fairest daughters of the creation!* What says my lovely girl? Those lips—”

I shudder at the recollection of his insolence! — He kissed me more than once before

before I had either presence of mind or strength to disengage myself.

“ I thank you, sir, (said I, the instant

“ I was able to speak) you have wiped

“ away my tears !—I shall be no loser by

“ being deprived of your good opinion.

“ As to your suspicions of me, let them

“ live for ever ; but do not harbour one

“ with regard to poor Miss Kennington :

“ however culpable I am, she is perfectly

“ innocent.”

“ A likely story, indeed ; (returned he,

“ contemptuously) —but say, my be-

“ loved girl, (his features softened) could

“ you—(then, with rage and irritation)

“ Oh, you never could convince me I

“ have injured you !”

“ To answer you (said I) would be to

“ destroy my fixed purpose. Whatever I

“ am to Lord Kennington, be assured I will

“ always remain a stranger to you. Accuse

“ me, expose me, I will not murmur : you

“ may, perhaps, essentially serve a man

“ who possesses my highest esteem. I

“ hope you will not longer detain me.”

" Promise, then, (cried he, seizing my
 " hand, which I ventured to withdraw in
 " the same moment) that you will not
 " hide yourself from my knowledge;—
 " guilty or innocent I must visit you.—
 " Do not make me desperate!—no place
 " on earth shall conceal you long!—I
 " have resolution; and what I engage to
 " do, shall not be done by halves."

" Only leave me, for the present, (I
 " was, my dear Miss Kennington terrified
 " at his behaviour) and I will consider of
 " all you have said: I have little or no
 " acquaintance in the country, no friend
 " to receive or protect me; you need not,
 " therefore, apprehend my escaping:—
 " nay, if you are so determined, and en-
 " terprizing as you mention, it would be
 " a folly to attempt such a thing."

" Give me, once more, your dear hand,
 " and tell me now—Pardon my impetu-
 " osity:—it is not my natural disposition;
 " but you have undone me, and will be
 " both unjust to yourself and me, if you
 " condemn my behaviour." What

What a creature is man !—but I leave you to comment.—My spirits, my patience, are exhausted !—Was it for this I became a wanderer ?

My whole concern is for you : Mr. Fleetwood will, undoubtedly, imbibe a fatal prejudice against you : — I can see no means of preventing it : you must judge for yourself.

I am your unhappy M. P.



LETTER XXXIII.

MR. BRADSHAW TO MR. FLEETWOOD.

I Have done her business, Harry, with Lord Finly : poor man, the stroke was severe. It seems he had chosen her for the companion of his future days : she is, however, found out, and must rest content with being the old beau's mistress.

Bob sighs most profoundly :—his heart rebels against his judgment. How difficult

cult to persuade ourselves that a fair face only covers a corrupt mind.

It is proposed on all hands, that we should desist visiting at Kennington's ; but it is pretty plain that no one is so great a hero as to set the example. As for my part, I do not scruple to acknowledge, that I neither can nor will forego the sight of Patty, so long as she remains within my reach.

I will watch her every step ; — it will be employment for me ; that's all, Harry. As to love, if ever I felt the least glimmering of the passion, it is entirely conquered.

What a fine fellow Finly was a few days ago ! — Disappointment is a hard lesson with him : — he knows nothing of philosophy, and deserves my commiseration.

Patty and her despicable gallant must have some house of resort ; — and shall I suffer a superannuated wretch to engross the loveliest creature breathing ? No ; I will

punish his presumption, and teach him humility.

—This fellow knew the sex,—was vigorous in his attack,—did not stand sneaking with distant respect,—but truly, the fear of offending the lady's delicacy, has been the bane of—Finly's felicity.

—The affair would never have transpired, but by such an accident as the dropt letter. My Lord and his niece would have been faithful to their trust, and these worthy lads still continued the prey of a ridiculous passion.

—I would give a hundred pounds that Bob was as fairly released from his entanglement, as I from my foolish approbation; but he has had the address to excuse his beloved at her uncle's expence.

—He is so inexperienced in vice, that he most certainly imposes upon her, with professing that he is either privately married to Miss Patty, or intends so to be.

—A pretty device, as well as a most probable one. As to me, I despise such shallow artifice,—Though nothing affects me

more than the knowledge of Patty's baseness, — yet my heart cannot subscribe to any paultry deceptions. I will, however, have such proof as shall confound her in spite of her effrontery, and compel her, when next we meet, to acknowledge the justice of my accusation.

Perhaps you ask to what purpose? — why not leave her to her fate, and return to England? — That were a good joke, indeed. We have not been a month in the country, and you want us to fly upon such a trumpety girl's account : but, so far from that, Harry, I shall persuade Bob and Finly to behave as usual. — They may, perhaps, pick up intelligence ; — but I will not behold her face again in my own proper character, for some time. I may, perhaps, cause it to be insinuated that I am gone into the country.

* * * *

They have given into my measures, especially as they will bring some notable purpose of Finly's to bear.

I was not always so curious ; — but I

would give a handsome fee at this juncture to be let even into that little secret.

What a generous fellow these ladies will think me, for not betraying them.—

I must laugh by anticipation :—they shall find me as skilful a manager as themselves. They have a volatility in their natures that allures one into the opinion, that they cannot be deep designers ;—but it is a gross error, which I was born to detect. I will write my sweet actress a farewell epistle : it will have a face.

Adieu, Harry ;—you perceive the wound is not mortal ;—nor will it leave even a trifling scar.



LETTER XXXIV.

MR. BRADSHAW TO MISS PRICE.

MADAM,

I Sincerely pity your fallen condition, you certainly deserved a better fate ; but if happiness is not incompatible with vice, may you obtain it. I am

I am no profligate; and notwithstanding the offensive proposals I made you, knowing your circumstances, I would not for ten thousand worlds have been your seducer. You have, indeed, robbed yourself of an unspeakable charm!—I am far from wishing to mortify you; but a character, as you took occasion to remark to me, ought to be uniform.

Had your mind, in reality, been untainted,—how amiably engaging the conduct you observed! I am astonished you did not persevere in virtue from very policy;—you have fixed one friend by your renunciation of it;—but you have forfeited an honourable and honest attachment.

I confess I leave town in order to avoid the sight of you.—I could not be your enemy, notwithstanding your cruelty, and your secret still remains at your own door.

The slightest encouragement would have prevented my departure; the slightest encouragement would ensure my return.

Consider the whole affair, madam, and

Should you not esteem me utterly unworthy of you, recal me to that felicity I can never enjoy at a distance from so beloved an object.

I am, &c.



LETTER XXXV.

Lord FINLY to Miss PRICE.

PARDON me, dear madam, if I am impatient to know your determination. I did flatter myself that you would have honoured my letter in a greater degree than you have done; but I submit to your pleasure, and only intreat that you will, at length, relieve me from my painful suspense.

Tell me, Oh! tell me, if my request is agreeable to your inclinations; nor delay your compliance with it, if not utterly repugnant: you are only increasing your own difficulties. You are but little known at present in this kingdom;—retire before it is too late to answer our purpose.

I doubt not but you have taken Miss Kennington's advice upon the occasion. Deal sincerely by me; is she not my friend? She is all goodness! and will not only approve my choice, but be my advocate.

I will not attempt to wait upon you without your permission; but let the constraint have some small merit in your sight. — Self-denial is by no means the easiest task we impose upon ourselves. I will send to-morrow for your answer: it will be a miserable period until I am acquainted with the result of my application.

I am, &c.



LETTER XXXVI.

MISS PRICE TO LORD FINLY.

MY LORD,

IT is your Lordship's desire that I should be very explicit in my answer to your generous, your obliging letter; I take you

at your word.—Read, then, with attention what I now lay before you.

That I am sensible of your merit I will not scruple to acknowledge ; and had my fortune taught me to entertain such great expectations as the securing your affections, should have deemed myself a happy being:—but, as I am circumstanced, I can only regret the misery of having a taste of refinement that never can be gratified.

At Holyhead my retirement sat easy upon me, nor had I one wish beyond a safe passage to this city. The impertinence of a set of people I never offended, drove me from my hiding-place.—I sought protection, but have been betrayed to mortification.

I have no charge against you, my Lord, but that of unexampled goodness and condescension. Insult, however grievous, the mind can support ; it is roused by ill-treatment to self-defence ; — but sinks into inactivity and depression when tempted beyond its strength.

Be

Be assured it is neither your fortune or title that I lament the loss of; your greatness of soul could alone have reached my heart.

If I was capable of receiving your future addresses, I should not make this confession; but I love you too well to unite you to so inconsiderable a mortal as I am.

Mr. Bradshaw has thought proper to use me unworthily, on a supposition that I am, as he calls me, a hypocrite.—But how comes it, since my hypocrisy has never injured him, that he is authorised to make me so severely smart for it?

He accuses me of being kept by Lord Kennington. It is really singular that your men of understanding can be so grossly imposed upon. My situation is unchanged;—my *mean* employment unre-nounced;—what advantage had I then reaped by forfeiting my virtue?

—But I shall not labour the point: I may astonish you; but it is the duty we owe to posterity rather than ourselves, that
 should

should restrain us from prostitution ; and this duty extends to both sexes.

It is, my Lord, an unworthy action to rob our neighbour of his fame, his friends, or property ; and do we not start at the bare idea of bringing harmless creatures into existence, without one claim to parental protection, provision, or consanguinity ? But this is not all : the better half of the odium falls upon their innocent heads, whilst the guilty authors of their sufferings revel, at large, in that affluence from which they are for ever excluded.

I do not mention this on your Lordship's account ; but to convince you that the woman that can look so far into consequences, must be the most despicable of wretches, if capable of offending against such strong convictions.

Believe me, sir, I am unconcerned at my own particular part of the scandal ; but it hurts me unspeakably, that a lady of the nicest sentiments should be so unjustly

justly censured. If I am criminal, Miss Kennington is totally ignorant of it; nor would she join hands with guilt to obtain the greatest of rewards.

But to return to your Lordship's noble generosity.

Had I never set my foot in this kingdom, had my acquaintance with you commenced under very different auspices, I could never have consented to disgrace you by such an alliance; but, buffeted about as I have been, traduced, insulted, was I mean enough to fly with your Lordship,—you ought to spurn the reptile.

A little reflection will teach you to subscribe to this opinion.—Be satisfied, I am not the fine creature you mistake me for: it is alone the want of a better knowledge of me, that deceives you; but I, that know myself, will secure you from practical error.

May your Lordship make a more suitable choice: may the lady really possess every perfection imputed to me, with a

heart

heart as well disposed to love and honour you, and you cannot fail of happiness.

Mr. Bradshaw writes me word he has left Dublin on my account.

I am sorry he should have given himself so much trouble; for, if he had condescended to intimate his intention, or the necessity there was for removing himself to a distance from so formidable a being, I myself would have withdrawn. All places are alike to the friendless, Ireland, Scotland, England: misfortunes would alike await me; but in every place I should remain, my Lord, Your Lordship's &c.



LETTER XXXVII.

MISS PRICE to MISS KENNINGTON.

I Send you, my dear madam, this second letter from Lord Finly—I have returned an answer, and all is at an end. But really my situation begins to be very uneasy to me, some one or other perpetually

ally dropping in to teaze and torment me.

Lady Sarah brought two or three ladies yesterday, to whom she had related my adventures, as she was pleased to stile them.

They did me the honour to stare and laugh me out of countenance. When will my persecutions cease?

* * * * *

How every appearance of evil drives us to despair! My spirits were so sunk, by Lady Sarah's behaviour, that I gave myself over for lost.—When the agreeable Mrs. Bateman instantly presented herself:

“ You seem chagrined, my dear, (said she) what has befallen you? I would be your friend in every respect, if you would but confide in me.

I thought it a folly to conceal the cause of my mortification from her.

She kindly pitied me, and advised me to take a private lodging, and have my work sent home. “ There are many persons in Dublin, (said she) would be glad to receive you upon the footing of a boarder

“ a boarder or companion.—Myself, for
 “ instance: I know not when my sister
 “ will return. You should dispose of your
 “ time as you pleased, except an hour or
 “ two in the evening, when we would
 “ contrive, if possible, to have Miss Ken-
 “ nington with us.”

I was so harrassed by the present, and apprehensive of the future, that I was half-inclined to accept this very kind offer. I, however, resolved to be determined by you; therefore, making a proper return to so much good nature, I begged she would allow me a few days to consider of it, and I would then send her my answer.

What necessities am I reduced to by the cruelty of mankind! — Why will they not permit me to pass my hours in peace? But I will look forward to that season that will secure me from all interruption,—the winter of life.

Which of them, then, would be willing to cheer my drooping spirits? Reflection, (if I was either so weak or so wicked

wicked as to yield to their persuasions) guilty reflection, would, at that period, be the only bitter companion of my solitude! — I have it as yet, thank heaven, in my power to avoid so dreadful a fate!

Surely this new prospect will not be obscured. —

Mr. Bradshaw has conveyed himself off. He has sent a faucy kind of penitential letter; you shall see it when we meet.

I rejoice in his departure, whatever were his motives. There was something so wild and daring in his countenance, the last time I saw him, that I think of him with terror!

I have seen more of the world in these last three months of my life, than I could have imagined the world afforded, jealousy, deceit, villainy, cruelty. — Oh, my dear Miss Kennington! continue your kindness to me, or I must be lost!

I beg that none of these gentlemen may be acquainted with my new situation; for which reason Lady Sarah must not be let

into the scent. Her woman, I am sensible, owes me a dreadful spite; but, perhaps, her malice may never have an opportunity of shewing itself. I wonder she has never had the boldness to intercept our letters.

What shall I do in this exigence. I have more than once wished it was possible to put myself under the protection of honest Mr. Shugburgh.—We will talk the matter over at Mrs. Bateman's, till when, adieu.

Morn.

If I had dispatched this letter, previous to my receiving the enclosed, I should have suspected it was your work; but I am now convinced it is a true picture of benevolence and humanity.

Mr. SHUGBURGH to Miss PRICE.

“IT is so impossible to have an opportunity of speaking to my dear little girl, when surrounded by her admirers, that I am obliged to have recourse to my pen, or confine my wishes and sentiments

"ments to my own breast. Writing is
 "an employment I am but little practised
 "in, as my connexions are very limited.
 "— I have, indeed, a heart at all times
 "open to the participation of my neigh-
 "bour's pleasures and dissatisfactions ;
 "but my only sphere of activity is Lord
 "Kennington's family.

"There is a something in your exposed
 "situation that affects me extremely.
 "What can be the meaning, my dear child,
 "that you are thus strolled from the pro-
 "tection of your relations or friends? Is
 "it possible that, contrary to all appear-
 "ance and belief, you can have been guilt-
 "ty of any steps to forfeit their counte-
 "nance; or has misfortune alone driven
 "you to these extremities ?

"I know too much both of life and hu-
 "man nature to be surprised at either
 "cause.—Error and mortality were ne-
 "ver disunited ; nor is there any emi-
 "nence above the reach of calamity.

"But, in order to be properly service-

“able to you, it is necessary to under-
 “stand your true case. You can have
 “nothing to apprehend from me.—I am
 “no sensual wretch! no spoiler of inno-
 “cence! but would shelter even a blight-
 “ed flower from further injury!

“Reflect on my whole conduct to-
 “wards you; have I not betrayed an al-
 “most paternal affection? — Make me
 “useful to you in whatever way you
 “judge most advantageous to your happi-
 “ness; and I will never to see you more,
 “if you require it, as a proof of the up-
 “rightness of my intentions.

“I own it is hard that humility and
 “industry cannot secure you from censure
 “and malevolence; but the great en-
 “dowments you possess, both of body and
 “mind, will never permit you to be free
 “from interruption in a city.

“Those young fellows, Lord Finly
 “and Mr. Bradshaw, are not, I dare be-
 “lieve, either slaves to appetite or void of
 “principle; but what can they propose

“ by their mutual approbation of you ?

“ My friend too, I am scandalized to
 “ think of it; but he is most shamefully
 “ taken in: you have much less, how-
 “ ver to apprehend from venerable three-
 “ score, than blooming five-and-twenty.

“ Your situation is too critical to be
 “ trifled with; you must remove your
 “ present employment, or your reputation
 “ will be lost.

“ I need not intimate that there are
 “ persons ready and willing to aggravate
 “ every the least unfavourable circum-
 “ stance.—A malicious woman is worse
 “ than the greatest libertine. — He has
 “ gratifications, however gross, to incite
 “ him in his career;—but malice, from
 “ whence is it derived? or whether shall
 “ we trace it to the inmost recesses of a
 “ narrow soul, that, like the dog in the
 “ manger, denies others the subsistence it
 “ is incapable of feeding upon?

“ I have cast about in my own mind
 “ for a proper asylum for you: till your

“ bloom is somewhat overpast, your industrious inclination need not be subdued. I do not wish to load you with obligation, but secure you from evil.

“ Miss Kennington's mother is a very good woman : — her fortune is now become pretty easy ; but she is too prudent to fly in the face of her benefactors, by snatching her daughter out of their hands.

“ To her you may be doubly recommended ; Miss Kennington loves you, and would rejoice to serve you. You will be an excellent companion for that lady ; and, by your pleasing vivacity, and the never-failing assistance of time, in great measure dispel her present melancholy. I will protect her child in return for the favour she may shew you ; but your own good sense will ensure your happiness and her approbation.

“ Let me hear from you soon, and believe me to be,

&c.

SHUGBURN.

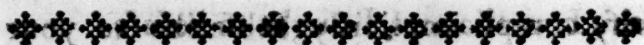
I shall, perhaps, make a strange figure in your eyes, by declining an offer that was confessedly the only thing I most desired. But, my dear Miss Kennington, you have hitherto indulged me in the retention of some secrets you conceive me possessed of relative to my affairs; and I must intreat you not to withdraw it at this juncture. It is impossible for me to return to England with convenience, and Mrs. Bateman's scheme cannot be exceptionable. I beg you will, nevertheless, make Mr. Shugburgh sensible of my grateful surprize at such unmerited goodness, and assure him, that if he or you disapprove of the disposition I mean to make of myself, I will implicitly subscribe to your opinion, and forego its execution.

Believe me, I am far from being averse to obligation, (however ineligible in itself) when conferred by such minds as the worthy Mr. Shugburgh's and your own; but I must, at the same time, acknowledge that Mrs. Bateman's proposal

of having my work conveyed to her house, has charms for me, as I have many enemies forward to misconstrue every action that would tend to raise me above my present condition.

I have had many hard lines set before me; but none have been more difficult to acquire, than refusing the request of friendship.

I am an unhappy creature!—yet do not listen to me;—I am most happy in your valuable esteem and the kind consideration of that best of men; nor dare I repine at little events that have opposed my idle inclination. I am, &c.



LETTER XXXVIII.

From the Same to the Same.

HOW sweetly, my dear madam, do you chide me and the worthy Mr. Shugburgh! How flattering his friendly

con-

condemnation! Whatever was the natural propensity of my heart, I surely could not fail to conduct myself properly, protected and exhorted by so much goodness.

I have, in conformity to your permission and approbation, wrote my resolution to Mrs. Bateman, who returned me a polite answer, and promised to fetch me in the evening. With her I shall be as retired as my heart can wish; and at her house I shall hope for the pleasure of frequently seeing the best and most beloved friends I have upon earth.

I have no doubt of our agreement; she is both a well-bred and a well-natured woman, and must be incapable of exacting any compliances I ought to refuse.

I am impatient to be gone. — Lord Finly—but no more of him; I have taken my final leave, and shall only remain his private friend. May he forget me, if necessary to his repose. May the world's amusements and the satisfaction of friendship sooth his heart: and may he soon

make a more judicious and happy choice. Oh, nature ! oh, vanity ! how cruelly rebellious !—But it is only the same thing as heretofore, and shall be subdued.



LETTER XXXIX.

The Same to the Same.

I Am, my dear Miss Kennington, perfectly delighted with my new situation ; a more obliging or good-humoured woman never lived. She prevents my wishes ; and, in order to relieve my mind from every apprehension of obligation, has kindly set me to work her a fire-screen that will at least be adequate to a three-month's board.

She confessed to me, last-night, that she had had a visit from Mr. Shugburgh.—What a valuable man !—he spoke of me with his usual generosity ! complimented her (to be sure) upon her attachment to me ; but begged she would not deprive
him

him of the pleasure of being my private benefactor.

“ You know, madam, (said he) that
 “ I am a man without connexions, as it
 “ were : my fortune is easy in itself ; but
 “ as I am situated at present, becomes
 “ abundant. I must, therefore, intreat
 “ your permission to dedicate a small
 “ portion of it to Patty’s use. I would
 “ not contract, but enlarge your system
 “ of benevolence ; you must be the best
 “ judge in what manner to employ it,
 “ and let her happiness still continue to
 “ be the object of your attention.”

A kind of amicable squabble was the consequence of this unexpected proposal ; and Mrs. Bateman, at last, brought him to consent that I should remain her visitor for one twelvemonth, without making himself a party. She told me this in the utmost confidence ; but will it be possible, my dear, to restrain my gratitude !—May I never forfeit so inestimable a friend !

I hope Lord Finly is reconciled to my departure :

departure :—it was abrupt, but could not be avoided. To have made him acquainted with my intention, would have been indirectly to ask him to prevent the execution of it ;—and, believe me, whatever tender regret I may have experienced upon the occasion, it is amply compensated by the reflection, that I have acted justly.

It is to very little purpose that we profess to love or honour an object, unless our actions are properly correspondent ; and I am daily shocked at the proceedings of both sexes in the particular instance, of uniting themselves to each other at all adventures. Poverty, distress, contumely, in vain rear their heads :—the hardy lovers rush on to known destruction, when, like our first parents, though equally culpable, they would throw the blame off themselves, however grievously they load their lately beloved.—We females are not well-suited to rough blasts ; — the roses fade upon the cheek ; the voice loses its harmony ; and the stern brow of the new-made

made lord is but ill calculated to recall them to life and beauty.—Thus the better half (in every sense of the word) of their days is spent in bitter repentance of a step they would not shun, and are unable to retrieve.

It is, however, no easy task to subdue and restrain our most prevailing inclination.

Rejoice, my dear Miss Kennington! rejoice with me, that the conflict is over! for I feel I should be unequal to such another trial.

LETTER XL.

MR. BRADSHAW to Mr. FLEETWOOD.

THE plot, my good Harry, begins to thicken: Patty has eloped; and, if you would believe the fine milliner and her dependants, without any one's knowledge, privity, or consent.

I have, undoubtedly, a something of extravagant credulity in my aspect, or they would never have attempted to impose such a tale upon me. She

She has, you must know, written herself out in most heroic characters to Finly, by way of answer to his ridiculous proposals:—she is a finished creature, and will not fail of her crowd of dupes wheresoever she appears.

If I had not been so lucky as to obtain that fine letter, to proclaim her iniquity, she had never been so daring as to give up appearances; but all her game was out, and she had nothing for it, but to retire to that old wretch's *pretty house, gardens, and delightful shades*.

They shall not, however, afford her all the satisfaction she may promise herself; for I will haunt her as her evil genius, and most grievously torment her.

Finly is ashamed to confess his weakness; but I can perceive there is much more of compassion than anger in his resentment. — I wish he was fairly out of the country.

Bob begs you will not delay your kind intentions relative to him: he has great
faith

faith in your success; but I am far from being so clear in it. Lord Kennington has an equal share of ambition and vanity, and would ill-brook forfeiting his hopes of uniting his niece to nobility.

They spent the afternoon there previous to Patty's elopement: Kennington threw out many broad hints to Lord Finly, who made but an awkward figure upon the occasion, according to Bob's account; and for the pair of turtles, as Finly tells the story, it was most pitiable;—they did so hang down their heads in sorrow and disconsolation.

For my part, I am in minutely expectation of a rupture: none but the wilfully blind, one would imagine, could overlook such speaking behaviour; but my Lord's optics are so whimsically constructed that he sees but so much of an object, and in such a point of view, as suits his own humour or fancy:—yet, to expect it can continue, is to be as absurd as himself.

Lady Sarah is wonderfully altered in
her

her disposition ; so complaisant, so complying, and so uncommonly attentive to Miss Kennington.—It is not for me to pry into futurity ; but I wish she means her well, or us either : many a throat has been cut under the mask of friendship, and I have not the least doubt of her abilities in the mischievous.

This Patty sits heavy upon my heart, in spite of all my efforts :—it is curiosity ; it is friendship ; — it is a desire of convincing her that she is not so private in her baseness as she may flatter herself, that thus agitates me : but find her out I must, or I can never rest.

I'll tell you, Harry, I am not without apprehension that I myself have been accessory to her flight. I did not treat her properly : no ill conduct on her part could authorize me to take liberties :—and she has certainly flown from Lord Finly in order to fly from me her persecutor.

If there should be any mistake in that affair — but, blockhead that I am, was

it

it not her own hand-writing ! nor does she merit the consideration of a moment !

I am, &c. BRADSHAW.



LETTER XLI.

LORD FINLY to Miss KENNINGTON.

MADAM,

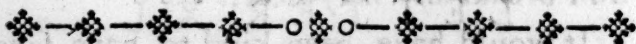
I Have great reason to believe you are not unacquainted with the place of Patty's residence. To say it would oblige me to convey the enclosed safely to her hands, I would poorly express the happiness I should derive from such a favour.

But I have much more to ask ; she is accused of a criminal connexion with a near relation of yours : I need not mention the rest. I own the proofs are strong against her, yet my heart is unconvinced.

A letter to you upon a horrid subject, tho' unquestionably her writing, is insufficient to deprive her of that estimation her whole behaviour seemed to demand.

Much

Much more depends upon this article than you can possibly imagine. I must submit, however, to your pleasure;—yet you are too humane to trifle with misery, you have the power of relieving. I am, &c.



LETTER XLII.

Miss PRICE to Miss KENNINGTON.

HOW unfriendly, my dear Madam, the ceremony you have observed?— Could you conceive that any secrets subsisted between Lord Finly and me, that you might not participate?

He is a generous man, but interrupts the happiness he seeks to promote.

I will not oppose your complying with his request, as it is a happy opportunity of acquitting yourself to Mr. Fleetwood, — who must have been strangely puzzled in his judgment of us, notwithstanding his affected ignorance deprived you of every means of introducing the subject, without
betraying

betraying your knowledge of all my proceedings.

Do, my dear madam, intreat him, for my peace-sake, to forbear all future application.—I cannot be his, though to refuse him breaks my very heart.

It would have been kind to have saved me the trouble of sending the enclosed, and waiting for your opinion of it, by perusing it; in the first instance, what seals ought to be sacred from friendship's hand? My spirits are so low, that I can only add, that I am, &c. M. PRICE.

Lord FINLY to Miss PRICE.

(Enclosed in the above.)

“FORGIVE me, madam, that I thus
 “persist to follow you even to your ut-
 “most retirement; but the interest I have
 “in your reputation and happiness will
 “not permit me to sit down content with
 “injuries done the one, and my apprehensions for the other.

“Did you but know how they have
 Vol. II. E “tortured

"tortured me — but you are Virtue's
"self, and must bid defiance to their
"censures."

"Let me intreat you to condescend to
"explain one circumstance—that letter
"—Teach me but to unravel it agree-
"able to my wishes, and you will deli-
"ver me from the greatest horrors!"

"What can all this mean? If you are
"merely the person you give yourself for,
"and capable of descending to the im-
"proprieties imputed to you, why your
"cruel preference of Lord Kennington
"to me? I would have saved you from
"every miserable consequence of infamy.
"Affluence should have dwelt with you,
"and the voice of reflection been totally
"stopt. You should not have been un-
"der the necessity of flying the world, to
"avoid its censures; the world's appro-
"bation should have been at your com-
"mand, unless wilfully forfeited by any
"outrage against appearances."

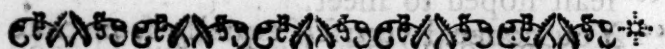
"But it was not a guilty connexion I
"sought

“ fought with you ; the amiable quali-
“ fications you possessed.—Oh ! it never
“ can be that you are contaminated.—
“ You conceal yourself equally from that
“ fellow as from me ; and you have not
“ been long enough in Dublin to be
“ seduced.

“ Patty, my beloved Patty ! what lan-
“ guage can I use to prevail upon you to
“ be just to yourself and generous to me ?
“ Only clear up the suspicions of my
“ friends ; I want no new proofs of your
“ merit ; and put the scheme I proposed
“ into execution. I cannot live without
“ you ! surely you will not sacrifice a
“ life to idle scruples.

“ I do not ask any further account of
“ you than Miss Kennington can give
“ respecting one particular :—be it your
“ business only to communicate the hap-
“ py information, that you consent to be
“ mine. The world’s opinion has no
“ weight with me.—Vice I most cer-
“ tainly abjure ; but the reflections of the

“ envious I know how to despise! and
 “ shall always remain, &c. FINLY.



L E T T E R XLIII.

Miss PRICE to Miss KENNINGTON.

I Am greatly discomposed by what has happened ; we are never less secure than when we have no apprehension of danger.

Mrs. Bateman and I had scarcely dined before a coach stopt at the door : she appeared confused, and hastily withdrew ;— for my part, I had no suspicion, consequently felt no alarm until she returned with affected parade, introducing your fine uncle, the venerable earl of Kennington.

—I was both piqued and surprised.—
 “ This is the most unexpected favour (said
 “ the ill dissembler) ; I thought your
 “ Lordship had been out of town.”

“ And this is the most unexpected ren-
 “ counter, (returned his Lordship, res-
 “ pectfully

“pectfully bowing to me) the lady on
 “earth I could have most wished, but
 “least hoped to meet.”

“I am sorry, my Lord, (said I) you
 “should resume a language, at this juncture,
 “you had so lately renounced, from
 “a conviction of its impropriety. I am
 “exactly the same Patty Price that
 “was permitted, upon sufferance, to
 “visit at your house; and I believe
 “Lord Kennington never gave a greater
 “instance of condescension on any occasion,
 “than in permitting his niece to
 “countenance her.”

“What a sweet, perverse girl it is,
 “Mrs. Bateman! (exclaimed he, in his
 “odd manner) but surely, she is not
 “incorrigible; a better acquaintance with
 “herself and friends will teach her to see
 “things in a different light.—How long,
 “pray, have you and Mrs. Bateman been
 “on such good terms?”

“You may spare your enquiry, sir,
 “(said I, rather fretfully; for I was piqued

“ at the incident) whilst I am present, at
 “ least : I doubt not but you will find
 “ an opportunity” —

—“ To pay my devoirs to you (re-
 “ turned he) ; depend upon it, my fair
 “ creature ! no opportunity shall escape
 “ me : you well know how entirely my
 “ heart is subdued !”

“ This is very extraordinary ! (said I,
 “ with a view to set him once more right.)
 “ It is not many days since I spent an
 “ evening at Lord Kennington’s ; his
 “ Lordship was then gay and polite, but
 “ perfectly rational ; nor did he attempt
 “ to affront me with unmeaning adu-
 “ lation.”

“ Mrs. Bateman, (said he, hastily) I
 “ must beg of you to retire : some little af-
 “ fairs require settling between this lady
 “ and me, that will not bear a witness. I
 “ am a man of honour — and expect to be
 “ obliged : — be assured it will occasion
 “ no enmity.”

My Lord is not a formidable object, —

and

and it would have been the height of folly, in my situation to oppose his request. Mrs. Bateman therefore curtsied, and withdrew.

“ It is time for us, my dear girl, (said your relation) to come to an explanation : you have used me ungenerously ; and, what is still worse, affronted my understanding.

“ Your finesse (continued he) with respect to the letter, I could pardon, if it had been practised upon a man of less experience than myself ; but the bare supposition that so poor a deception could pass with me, is never to be forgiven. As to exposing me to my niece, making her the conveyancer (if not inspector) of your pretty reply, can even that be defended ? and, I doubt not but your little satirical hearts mauled me in private.”

“ It is cruel, my Lord, for the mighty to oppress the weak !” —

“ Oppress ! — Come, come, Patty, (said

“(said he, endeavouring to take my
“ hand) let me have no whining; I now
“ demand a verbal answer to the proposal
“ *that audacious villain* was so hardy as
“ to make you : he is my very intimate
“ friend, and a conquest, I must tell you,
“ of some importance.”

“ You are sensible, sir, (replied I) I
“ am under some obligations to your fa-
“ mily; but that’s out of the question :
“ it is not in my nature to give offence
“ to any one, if it could be avoided.—
“ But, if you compel me to speak my
“ sentiments”—

“ O my dear Miss! (twirling his hand)
“ speak, speak then, but literally, and
“ I am content.”

“ Then, sir, your letter was not more
“ detestable to me the first moment I re-
“ ceived it than at this juncture; nor
“ can my opinion of it ever change.”

“ Patty Price, (said he, with great sig-
“ nificance) look on me. — How long
“ have you been under abject circum-
“ stances.

“ stance. — If either caprice or misfor-
 “ tune has reduced you to the state I find
 “ you in, I have done ; — but if you was
 “ born to labour, you cannot reject my
 “ proposals.”

“ I must take the liberty of telling
 “ your Lordship, (returned I, with some
 “ warmth) your judgment is erroneous ;
 “ honesty is but an humbler name for ho-
 “ nour, and thousands of the meanest
 “ condition are as happy enthusiasts to
 “ the one, as every day proves some of
 “ the greatest are to the other.”

“ Mere cant ; (cried he, sneering) the
 “ consequence of low-breeding. I never
 “ till this instant really suspected you to
 “ be poorly born. You have, neverthe-
 “ less, seen but little of life, or you would
 “ be sensible that what you call vice,
 “ and make such a horrible bustle about,
 “ is the very essence of gallantry and
 “ characteristic of gentility. But I per-
 “ ceive that Mr. Shugburgh has been
 “ tampering with you, who, because his
 “ con-

“ constitution has been cooled in the salt-
“ water, would deprive his friend of his
“ best enjoyments. But I have a word
“ more for your consideration ; you see
“ how Mrs. Bateman lives ; do you give
“ into the same amusements ; your ap-
“ pearance, your expences shall not be
“ inferior to hers, and by her alone shall
“ they be supported. I will never
“ visit at her house, claim your ac-
“ quaintance in public, nor, in my most
“ unguarded moments, boast of a
“ single favour. Only let us fix upon
“ some snug retreat for our interviews,
“ which shall be regulated and restrained
“ by your inclination.”

“ I can hear no more ; (it was surely
“ time to fly out.) What can encourage
“ you thus grossly to affront me !—the
“ poor presumption of your superiority ;
“ —but know,—yet to undeceive you,
“ would be to gratify and indulge your
“ impertinent curiosity. And so it seems,
“ my Lord, your pride is mortified that a
“ little

“ little tradeswoman should prefer an
 “ agreeable industry, to living with you
 “ upon the most disgraceful terms ; but,
 “ believe me, there is very little merit
 “ in resisting what cannot amount to a
 “ temptation. If I must fall a prey to
 “ vice, Lord Kennington should not be
 “ the man.” —

“ No, madam, (grinning malicious) not,
 “ perhaps, whilst the strutting Bradshaw
 “ was in the way ; a formidable rival, up-
 “ on my honour !—but I have no time
 “ for trifling ; I command here ; and if
 “ you don’t think proper to relax some-
 “ what of your severity,—you must re-
 “ turn—to your shop again, I think.”

“ It is well, my Lord, (cried I dis-
 “ dainfully) and that shop will ever prove
 “ an asylum to me beyond the reach of
 “ your utmost malice ; the mistress of it
 “ knows me from my infancy.” How
 the wretch was galled to hear I had one
 strong hold on earth !

“ It is simple, Patty, (said he, in his most
 “ insinuating

“ insinuating way) to push things to such
 “ extremities. — I am warm, and you
 “ are very provoking; but you know your
 “ power.—It will be your own fault if a
 “ word of this transpires to Mrs. Bate-
 “ man.—A day or two’s cool reflection
 “ may be useful.”

“ Hear me, my Lord—, I will keep
 “ no dishonourable secrets;” I would
 have said — but he was gone—and Mrs.
 Bateman retired to her apartment for
 the remainder of the day; — she had
 not the confidence to encounter the
 dependent on her bounty. — So weak
 is guilt! so powerful is innocence!

I am sorry, for the honour of my sex,
 that some circumstances respecting me
 are rather singular, as I am convinced
 I should have acted upon the same princi-
 ples, let my birth or education have been
 ever so low.—Those who have any true
 sense of virtue, would not forsake her paths
 for all the allurements and advantages
 vice could bestow.—The heart and head

perfectly correspond ; sentiment, confirmed by reason, and reason improved by sentiment ;—nor is it necessary to be well-bred, or to possess the finest understanding to make a proper election, where the mind is uncorrupted.

What a quantity I have wrote ! — yet not one word of Lord Finly.—It is his dissatisfactions alone that sits heavy upon me.—Tell me all you have said and done ! —Make but his peace, and you will restore my happiness. I am, &c. PRICE.

~~MISS SOMMERVILLE TO MISS KENNINGTON~~

LETTER XLIV.

MISS KENNINGTON TO MISS CAREY.

HOW natural, Dolly, when any thing disgusts or offends us, to exclaim against the world ; but, believe me, its inhabitants are alone the proper objects of disgust.

For my own part, I can safely say, “ I
“ wish

“ with I had been born some humble
 “ cottager; and never seen life so great,
 “ so vain !”

One encouragement from my mother,
 and I will fairly renounce these splendid
 vicious scenes. I am so disturbed I can-
 not write correctly : this Lord, this Lord,
 is the head, and I hope the *tail* of our fa-
 mily. This is the matter.

Patty and I had enjoyed several happy
 interviews at Mrs. Bateman's. We per-
 fectly idolized the wretch for her goodness
 and humanity ; the guilty alone are suspi-
 cious ; so that it is no reflection upon us
 that our hearts glowed with grateful
 confidence.

I have, from time to time, described her
 behaviour. Could you have suspected she
 was merely a creature of my Lord's, per-
 forming for hire the basest and most un-
 worthy business in nature ? I am called
 away.

* * * * *
 Nothing but calamities ! Lady Sarah

and

and Mr. Shugburgh, I suppose by his Lordship's management, dined abroad. Vexation and displeasure were visible in his countenance.

He was not disposed to eat himself, and but little considered my appetite. "Have you done?" said he, snappishly. I bowed in confusion, and he ordered the cloth to be removed before I had half finished my meal.

"A very pretty return, Mrs. Sarah, (said he the moment he had an opportunity) you have been pleased to make to all my kindness.—Little did I suspect you was encouraging that watery-headed fellow to aspire to an alliance with my family, or I should have broke his measures long ago. I suppose you know nothing of his brother's affronting me with proposals; — but I perceive it is your method, when you are ashamed of your conduct, to wrap yourself up in a contemptuous silence."

"Be

“Be assured, my Lord, if I could reply
“to your satisfaction—”

“With your leave, madam, I will finish
“your wise speech for you.—If you could
“make it appear that you was neither un-
“grateful nor disobedient, you would not
“be at a loss for a reply; but you have
“a mean soul, and no better things could
“be expected from you. You may, how-
“ever, inform your spark, by the very first
“opportunity, that I will never consent to
“the match, though you are in every
“sense of the word a beggar, except in
“your hateful consanguinity.

“I know it would please you, (resum-
“ed he) to send you back to your fine
“craftful mother; for which reason I shall
“not think of it.—You deserve pu-
“nishment, and shall meet with it at
“my hands.

“Lord Finly, (added he, with the ut-
“most displeasure) might have been
“yours, if you had had common sense;
“—you have made a noble preference.

“Take

" Take it from me, however, that you
 " shall not chuse for yourself. — I have
 " a man in my eye, and shall introduce
 " him in a few days ; he is prepar-
 " ed to encounter a fullen untractable
 " girl ; therefore will neither be mor-
 " tified nor disappointed : nor need you
 " try any foolish experiments upon his
 " disposition ; for, supported with my
 " interest, he knows not to retreat."

The storm is now beginning to reach
 me, and most unfit am I to stand against
 it. But whatever steps his Lordship may
 compel me to take, I defy him to make
 a wife of me without my own consent ;
 we shall have a trial for it, and perhaps,
 in the end, the weakest may be found the
 strongest.

I will borrow some of Patty's spirit ; she
 can brave the shafts of adversity ; nor am I
 such a puny insect as to be easily beat down.

Do feel my mother's pulse, she was ever
 tender and indulgent ; but I will not leave
 Patty behind ; and, perhaps, she cannot be

prevailed upon to receive a stranger ; be you our advocate, and deliver us both from miserable persecution. I am, with due remembrances, most affectionately yours,

S. KENNINGTON.



LETTER XLV.

Lady SARAH KENNINGTON to Miss
TURNER.

THE hour, my dear Miss Turner, is at last arrived, when the hateful Patty Price must pay for all her folly and presumption. I own I have long cast about for a means of punishing her, without effect : her party was so strong there was no getting at her ; but accident has accomplished what artifice could not reach.

Preston and Squib, her mortal enemies, have made a match of it. I have an objection to married women about my person, and have, therefore, amicably discharged her,

She

She happened to have a relation newly arrived from Devonshire, whose interest she wished to promote, consequently recommended her to my service. She is a very decent, a very pretty looking girl.

But do not conclude, that I am so distressed for a subject as to descend to my attendants, unless there was meaning in it. I would tell you, that as our family still rings with Patty Price's perfections, this young woman shrewdly suspects she is very well acquainted with her, and I have engaged to procure her a sight of her Ladyship.

It would be charming to come at her history: there must be something very extraordinary in it though, by this person's behaviour; for she does not chuse to mention particulars until she is satisfied she is not mistaken.

Your sister is so infatuated as to harbour her at her house: I, it seems, drove her from her honest employment by a little gaiety of heart, and the wife Mrs. Bateman instantly received her; but my fa-

ther was at the bottom of that business.

We are to have a wedding; a great fellow, with a fortune as big as himself, has been captivated by our Sarah; — but the dear soul is as averse to the amour, as her uncle is anxious for its termination.—A dutiful creature she will prove, I dare believe!

Bob and Mr. Bradshaw are blown from our house by his Lordship's displeasure. The pul'ing mortal had the audacity to get his brother in the West to propose him for a husband for our cousin.

You know his Lordship is warm; but you can have no idea how he flamed upon this occasion.

He, indeed, took the hint of marrying her to Mr. Smith from me; I plainly discovered his affection for her; nor shall his pretensions be unsupported.

I wish my father was half as much disgusted with Dublin as I am; not one happy day have I yet seen in it; but I must be content.—Some lucky hit may, perhaps,

haps, change the face of things : victory, Turner, does not always run in the same channel.

His Lordship long wished I would have beheld Mr. Smith with an eye of favour ;—but, unfortunately for him, he did not please my fancy.—I am a little nice, you know, or I can assure you Miss Sarah had been overlooked ; but, rather than not be allied to me, he condescends to take her.

Shugburgh is not of the council, as we are persuaded he would dissent from our opinion ; but you are sensible his power with my father is very limited, therefore, no bad consequence can result from his knowledge of it in due season.

I have no news, no subject for amusement ; but am as dull as the dullest inhabitant of this foggy city ; and can only add, that I will give you the earliest notice of whatever concerns us. I am, &c.

S. KENNINGTON.



LETTER XLVI.

Mr. BRADSHAW to Mr. FLEETWOOD.

WE have, my dear boy, received our
dismissal from the earl's in rather
disgraceful terms, indeed ; but no matter,
one friend still remains in the garrison,
nor do we utterly despair.

The humility of Bob's fortune, exclu-
sive of your bounty, and the narrowness
of Kennington's soul, preventing all belief
of such surprising generosity, has thrown
us out of our chance : add to which, he is
resolved to make her miserable at all ad-
ventures, and is, at present, most warmly
attached to one Smith, a fellow I re-
member to have seen at some public place
or other ; but know nothing of his con-
nexions.

Was Miss Kennington's heart as free
as on our first acquaintance, Smith would
never have been the object of her approba-
tion.

tion. He leads a most debauched life in this city, and, without the least prejudice, is the roughest porterly fellow I ever met with.

The poor girl will most certainly undergo a fiery persecution :—she is naturally meek and yielding ; but love is a wonderful improver of the spirits and strengthener of the will ; nor should I be surprised if she should entirely renounce the softness of her character to preserve herself from violence.

Her language upon common subjects is engaging ; but she has had an opportunity of displaying her best abilities in the literary way, together with the goodness, the tenderness of her disposition, and her most extraordinary capacity for amicable friendship.

You will perhaps be aware, by this just encomium on Miss Kennington, that Patty Price is soon to be introduced ; for the commendation of the one insensibly leads to the commendation of the other.

But it would be no easy task to describe

my feelings respecting the latter. Self-condemnation, renewed esteem, a conviction of my own folly, cruelty, and injustice, and her purity, integrity, and greatness of soul, successively torment and distress me !

Lord Kennington's baseness was no deception ; but Patty's letter to her friend was dictated alone by conscious virtue and innocent vivacity : enclosed was the severest rebuke she could possibly bestow, conveyed in such terms as could not fail to mortify and search the most callous heart, at the same time that it deprived that heart of all power of resentment. But let your own eyes convince you of her sentiments and spirit, though to my shame and confusion, for having treated her so unworthily.

She is now at Mrs. Bateman's. I little suspected from what motive we were shunned by the widow ; but we have incurred her patron's displeasure, consequently should be very unwelcome visitors at her house. I can-

I cannot be satisfied without obtaining an interview, though but for a few moments, with the dear injured girl: I have no doubt, but my contrition will be accepted, notwithstanding the enormity of my transgression; the generous, Harry, and the brave, know both to pity and forgive, even their greatest enemies!

Lord Finly is reconfirmed in his resolution of marrying her, if he can but prevail upon her to consent; but she makes such nice distinctions, and enters so minutely into circumstances, that I greatly doubt his success. The woman that could disdain to sue for favourable consideration, and composedly receive unmerited censure and abuse, must be capable of persisting in whatever she deems an essential point of propriety.

I shall henceforth endeavour to promote what I have so officiously opposed. Was it for me to interfere in the disposition Lord Finly was pleased to make of his person or fortune? Should I have been

been the least sufferer by his advancing a lovely girl to a condition, however splendid, that she was born to grace ; or should I have derived the smallest benefits from the disappointment of his wishes ? It was a mean contemptible conduct, and shall be renounced. Finly is not accountable to any one for his actions ; he is the last branch of that ancient family ; and, in case of his decease without male issue, the title will devolve to a distant line.

I must tamper with some of the widow's servants to procure the conveyance of a penitential epistle ; and if all the eloquence I am master of can be serviceable to Finly, Patty's sentimental obstinacy shall be overcome.

I will acknowledge to you, by way of penance for past transgressions, that nothing but the certainty of my being an alien to Patty's affection, could have restrained me from the strongest attachment to her.

I find the human heart may be insensibly drawn on, from approbation to friendship, and from friendship to love. I

I have, in vain, endeavoured to impose upon myself,—and—you ;—for, till this moment that reason predominates, remorse mortifies and compassion softens my soul. I have been acting upon the most unworthy principles of jealousy and cruelty : for notwithstanding I was palpably convinced that Lord Finly's happiness depended upon his union with this sweet girl, who, through all her modest reserve was as evidently attached to him, I could not reconcile myself to receiving for a friend, the woman who would never, on the most honourable terms, have been my mistress, and whose friendship and good opinion I could never otherwise obtain.

I shall reap no inconsiderable advantage, Harry, from this slight wound ;—it will cure my infidelity respecting other mortals, and secure me from too great confidence in myself for the future.

—To play with fire, is the way to burn our fingers ; and conversing too frequently with an agreeable female, is the same thing

thing as baring our bosoms to the pointed steel.

I will not rest until I have made compensation for my error.—How despicable a light I must appear in! — yet it is not my character to be a monster; this single passion eradicated, and she will see my natural self: with you I am allowed to have some merit; and your judgment is so unexceptionable that it may be relied on;—nor is your brother disinclined to think favourably of me;—he will convince his beloved Miss Kennington of the happy change in my disposition, and she will effectually remove the hateful impression Patty must have received of,

my dear Harry, yours, &c. BRADSHAW.



LETTER XLVII.

MISS KENNINGTON TO MISS CAREY.

IT is, my dear Dolly, with the utmost reluctance that I enter upon a subject, the

the most painful and displeasing of any I ever met with.

Misfortunes to myself or friend I could have borne like a philosopher; but the knowledge I have acquired is beyond expression afflicting.

Lady Sarah's disagreeable attendant has been gone above a week, and her place supplied by an exceeding good kind of young woman, who is very obliging to me.

She had sought several opportunities of serving me; as Patty's situation at Mrs. Bateman's had been discovered by my Lord to Lady Sarah, I was at length persuaded to intrust her with a letter of little more consequence than a How-do-you-do, to her.

She seemed pleased with her commission, and, I dare believe, executed it faithfully; but I perceived, at her return, that her countenance was greatly disturbed, and, naturally enough enquired into the cause.

“ I hope, madam, (said she, hesitating) you will not be angry with me; “ but that young woman——” “ What?

“What? who, Patty Price? (demanded I, hastily.) Do you know any thing of her?”

“Know her, madam! only as well as I do myself; but I am convinced that is more than you do, or you would never take so much notice of her.”

“Take care, Mrs. Bret, (said I) I have no reason, it is true, to doubt your veracity; but she is a person I have a high esteem for; and it is not a little matter would occasion me to withdraw it.”

“Nay, madam, I have done: I am sure I never shall be a gainer by her in any respect; therefore I need not lose—”

“Do not be so hasty, (resumed I, encouraging her); I did not wish to restrain you from speaking the truth; but to recollect yourself perfectly, lest you should be mistaken.”

“Mistaken! no, no, madam! I am not so easily mistaken! many a pair of shoes

“ shoes has her father heel-pieced for
 “ me, and and an honest worthy man he
 “ was : if her mother had been equally
 “ good, Patty would not have been the
 “ girl she now is ; but she would make
 “ a fine lady of her, and the consequence
 “ was natural.”

“ It is impossible ! (exclaimed I) her
 “ father a cobbler ! I cannot believe it !”

“ Nay, madam, (returned she, rather
 “ disconcerted) I did not say any such
 “ thing ;—we lived in a little town, and
 “ he was both shoe-maker and mender,
 “ and got a great deal of money by
 “ his industry, which his wife and this
 “ girl took care to spend.

“ The mother had a sister at Exeter
 “ that kept an inn, and miss was sent
 “ there for education. She learnt all that
 “ could be learnt at a country-school ;
 “ and having an opportunity of flirting
 “ with officers, and the command of mo-
 “ ney, was at fifteen a most finished lady ;
 “ —but about six months ago, a corpo-

“ ral of light-horse, that was quartered
 “ at her aunt’s, was detected in some
 “ very unbecoming liberties with her,
 “ which occasioned her aunt to turn her
 “ out of doors.

“ She was prepared, it seems, (continued she) for a march, — a different
 “ way indeed ; but her fellow took a fever and died ; and she was never seen
 “ afterwards at Exeter.”

I cannot have the least doubt of the truth of this relation. What interest could the girl have in inventing such a tale ? But I am most reluctantly undeceived ; and, as I never was a sufferer by the deception, could almost wish it had continued. — What unaccountable folly !

She must be a base dissembler ! — Happy Lord Finly to have escaped her toils ! I had wrote him a long letter, explaining the affair of my uncle to his utmost wish ; and must now, from principle, make him acquainted with what I have heard, or I should consider myself as accessory to any fatal consequence.

“ Lady

“ Lady Sarah, Lord Kennington ! —
 “ How shall I support the shock of their
 “ exultation ! — but Mr. Shugburgh will
 “ bring me through that as well as every
 “ other exigence.”

I am exceedingly miserable at this juncture. This man, my Lord has chosen for me, is so bold and self-sufficient, that he does not even give me an opportunity of refusing him. He is a second Petruchio, and has been instructed, no doubt, by Lord Kennington to *tame* the miserable *shrew*, or he could never play his cards so artfully.

I am ripe for rebellion, but my best assistant has failed me; and I am so poor and helpless a being of myself, that I fear I shall fall a sacrifice to my Lord's ambition and this wretch's confidence.

Has my mother quite forgot her darling child? and will not her parental arms be open to receive me? — Oh! if she loved my father, she cannot deny her protection to his second self; for am I not reckoned

his very image ? I can no more ! what will, alas ! become of me, if she and you should forsake me ! Adieu.



L E T T E R XLVIII.

Mr. BRADSHAW to Mr. FLEETWOOD.

ANOTHER letter, my Harry, from Miss Kennington ! what can it mean ? Are Patty's resolves so soon overcome ? and am I deprived of an opportunity of being reconciled to myself by one good action ?

Methinks it would have been more in character, after such violent protestations, to have yielded less abruptly ; but it is a nice point to observe due mediocrity on any occasion. — She is a woman, Harry, which you know is but another name for frailty.

* * * * *

The wisest people, in some respects, are the easiest duped ; especially if their principles

ciples are just and equitable. Miss Kennington was apparently a timid creature; but, as to the article of understanding, perfectly unexceptionable: — yet has she suffered herself to be imposed upon by Lady Sarah's artifice and malice, in the most egregious degree.

Patty, low-born and viciously bred, the inhabitant of an inn, the mistress of a light-horseman, a vagabond, a run-away, has not even the face of probability, and can only be heard, to be rejected and despised. No, the happy detection of my late error has enabled me to form a better judgment of things, than to swallow so pitiful so unnatural a bait.

I am, for once, most unexpectedly indebted to fortune, for favouring my wishes; and shall yet be the instrument of good to the much-injured Patty, and conciliate her valuable esteem without an advocate.

There is a fellow at Mrs. Bateman's with a very intelligent tho' roguish aspect;

I will lie in wait for him, and, if he has one spark of vanity or ambition in his whole composition, win him to my purpose.

I will immediately to Dartmouth-street, bespeak a quantity of things, pay for them before-hand, for the woman's security, and then sift her with all my art. She must either have had some acquaintance with Patty, or very extraordinary recommendation of her, or she would never have received her into her house.——

Adieu; I will be with you again presently.

* * * * *

O Harry! I found the good, the affectionate milliner in affliction and tears on Patty's account; she has been conveyed from Mrs. Bateman's, to what place, or for what purpose, is impossible to judge.

Can she have put herself under Mr. Shugburgh's protection? or has the vile tale of her birth, education, and conduct, been invented to deprive her of his countenance? Lord Kennington durst not,
could

could not violently, or at least secretly, bear her off; some vestige would have remained.

Mrs. Bateman would not see this good creature; but returned for answer to her tender enquiries, “That she was ignorant of the new stage Mrs. Patty appeared upon; but thought her wife in decamping at the instant of detection.”

“It is hard, Sir, (said Mrs. Trueman) to be denied a reasonable piece of information, where one’s own interest alone is concerned; but when the well-being of the best and dearest friend we have upon earth is at stake, it becomes insupportable. Miss Patty ill deserves the treatment she has met with. — Mr. Shugburgh, Lord Kennington, all are against her! nay, even the good-natured Miss Kennington tacitly approves their severity!

“I pity their limited sight and narrow judgments, (continued she.) — Miss Patty’s appearance and behaviour be-

“ speak her what she is ; — few cobblers
“ daughters—but I am silenced by her
“ injunction, and they shall still hug their
“ error for me. If my resolution is but
“ equal to support her absence, she shall
“ not be betrayed.”

“ I can never believe, (said I) that
“ Mr. Shugburgh’s face is set against
“ her ; however, poor Miss Kennington
“ may be misled ; but in what respect,
“ madam, could Miss Price be injured by
“ your revealing her family, if neither
“ mean nor unworthy. Perhaps you might
“ more effectually serve her by disobey-
“ ing, than complying with her com-
“ mands.”—

“ I own, sir, I do not see with the same
“ eyes ; for the heart that could resist the
“ impression of her merit, cannot be very
“ susceptible of any other. Humanity is
“ no respecter of persons ; life and health
“ are equally precious to the prince and
“ the beggar ; and Miss Patty ought now
“ to be as much the object of your

“ con-

“ consideration, from being a worthy and
 “ oppressed individual, as if you was con-
 “ vinced she was the heiress of a ba-
 “ ronet.”

“ I, sir, (added she) am but little dis-
 “ posed for conversation, unless I could
 “ be useful to my injured friend. If you
 “ now doubt her worth, it cannot be in
 “ the power of argument to convert your
 “ unbelief; and if you do not judge her
 “ hardly, can you have a more noble or
 “ more generous pursuit than discovering
 “ what hands she is fallen into?—Every
 “ thing is practicable with your sex;
 “ —but we are born to difficulties, help-
 “ lessness, and censure.”

I have now nothing to depend upon
 but the fellow I mentioned. Finly and
 Bob shall remain ignorant of this affair
 until I have, in some measure, unravel-
 led it.

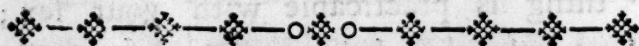
Do not applaud my resolution; for,
 Harry, I blush to acknowledge that I fear
 I am more anxious for the honour of serv-

ing Patty, than tender of poor Finly's repose; however, he will be spared many hours suffering, let my motive be what it may.

* * * * *

I have patroled the street the whole afternoon; but my success has, by no means, equalled the goodness of my cause. I will renew my walk after supper until twelve.

May your pillow, this night, afford you the soft slumbers of tranquility, which an imperial canopy could not bestow upon your, &c. BRADSHAW.



LETTER XLIX.

Miss KENNINGTON to Miss CAREY.

SINCE I am deprived, my Dolly, of my grand subject, I must, of necessity, descend to a less important one. This Smith that torments me with his horrid addresses, is the fellow on earth that would be most hateful to you: yet does
he

he conceive himself secure of my heart and hand ; nor once suspects it possible that he can be an object of disgust and detestation !

Mr. Shugburg is but newly acquainted with their intentions ; — he shrugs his shoulders, sighs, — and regards me with compassion ; but he is a man of such nice honour, that he would never countenance a breach of duty or friendship, but from extraordinary motives.

If my mother could be prevailed upon, to pay some attention to her child's happiness, I am certain she has the power of obviating his objection to poor Mr. Fleetwood.

I send you enclosed a copy of his brother's generous proposals. You are intimate with a family that is a near neighbour of this elder gentleman's, and to them I refer you for the character of each of them.

But my mother's silence and neglect of me terrifies me! — What can I apprehend

to

to be the cause? — Can she be displeased with any part of my conduct? — Has any one attempted to prejudice her against me? Or has (yet I shudder at the bare idea of such a thing!) — has she entered into any new connexion.

I, indeed, have no right to judge, condemn, or even question her; but, surely, she will forgive the tender anxiety of an affectionate child, accustomed to receive every mark of maternal goodness, every token of parental consideration.

I will not be trifled with, Dolly, upon this head: you have, several times, waved or disregarded my interrogatories; but I am now determined to know the very worst, nay, tho' the calamity should even exceed my frightened imagination!

Do not forsake me, oh, my dear mother, nor you, my dear friend, at this formidable period. I cannot accept Mr. Smith for my husband, nor will my stubborn heart forego its attachment to Mr. Fleetwood. Do but once reconcile my
duty

duty and love, and no heroine was ever more enterprising than I would become !

My uncle does not even intend to pay my mother the compliment of consulting her upon the occasion.—Who can condemn his wisdom, when a handsome jointure is to be secured to me, and he is to have the loan of a considerable sum continued to him at a very low interest during his life ?—Will you not interrupt the execution of such horrid bartering ?

Patty—but I resolved not to mention her ;—yet I must tell you, poor Patty has confirmed the evil report against her by flying the field. Mrs. Bateman came to inform us of her departure, and laid many heavy things to her charge, which I utterly disbelieve.

Lady Sarah affects great moderation upon the occasion : but I fear it is merely affectation ; for she has a truly malicious and revengeful heart.

My Lord will not suffer her name to be mentioned before him : he is outra-

geous

geous in his repentment. — Disappointed passion and mortified pride are powerful agitators.

As to myself, I feel as if awaking from a most horrible dream ; — the impression is so strong that I can hardly doubt its reality, notwithstanding a something whispers me, to recollect its impropriety and want of connection.

Mr. Shugburgh is still himself ; — no one accusation or reflection has escaped his lips ; — he is more thoughtful than usual ; — shakes his head insensibly ; and cries, “ Poor thing ! was it for this she “ refused so many great offers ? ”

A mean-looking woman, it seems, has been to enquire after her, and was quite clamorous and abusive, because Mrs. Bret would not introduce her to me. I was so low-spirited that I really was much indebted to her caution, for saving me the trouble of refusing her.

I am naturally unfit for rough encounters ; but more particularly so at this season.

Mr. Fleetwood has wrote me a very tender letter, and I, in return, have given him every satisfaction in my power ; but have declared, (in the same instant, that I promise never to receive another man for my husband) that I never will be his without my mother's sanction and consent.

If he has the matter as much at heart as he pretends, you will go near to receive a visit from his brother.

He is a well-bred man, Dolly, and would come upon no unjustifiable errand ; —but, my dear mother and you too well understand the treatment due to a gentleman, to need any instructions from such a mushroom as yours, &c. S. KENNINGTON.



LETTER L.

Mr. BRADSHAW to Mr. FLEETWOOD.

I Did not fail, Harry, to be sufficiently early at my destined post, in a shabby coat that gave me rather the appearance of a fidler

a fidler than a gentleman ; and as all sorts of company are welcome at Mrs. Bateman's, I dare say Robert will neither conceive an opinion of me superior to that character, nor be surpris'd to recollect his having stood behind my chair at his mistress's table.

An hour and an half elapsed before one creature came forth from Mrs. Bateman's ; but, at length, I had the satisfaction to perceive, by the light of the lamp, the very fellow I had marked down for my purpose, and had no great difficulty to prevail upon him to give me his company at an adjacent tavern.

A bottle of wine was brought, and he soon entered into that familiarity I wish'd, sung me a good song, and told two or three excellent adventures he had been engaged in. This you will say, was fetching a violent compass ; but it brought us, in due time, to the desired point.

“ And pray, Mr. Robert, (said I) how
“ does your lady and Miss Price agree
“ now ? Female friendships are seldom
“ durable ; and I really think, according

“ to the old proverb, Theirs was abundantly too hot to hold.”

“ O sir ! (returned he with a most significant look) there were reasons of state for all my mistress’s proceedings ; a wheel within a wheel is no unusual thing, sir :—and, sir, my very humble service to you.”

“ You are very drole, Mr. Robert ; but I suppose it is necessary to be pretty clever to wait upon Mrs. Bateman ; she is a woman of amusement, and sees much company.”

“ The scene is ever shifting, (resumed he) from one folly to another : in short, sir, these great folks are mighty apt to conclude that we little ones, their domestics, are arrant drivellers. Such hints, such conversation passes often at table ; — but I never was a blab :—and so, if you please, we will drink the ladies healths.”

“ If you include Miss Patty in the number, (replied I) I have no objection ;

tion ; otherwise, to be plain with you, I should not be much inclined to bestow so great a compliment upon them.

“ Mrs. Bateman is a very agreeable woman ; but I am not so happy as to be a favourite with her ; and we seldom love those, Mr. Robert, who slight us : —and, for Miss Turner—Your good health, my friend ; we will say nothing about her.”

“ She is a tiger (cried he) in her disposition ; that’s certain ; nor does her sister want for spirit on occasion ; but she always treated Patty (the rascal) with civility, until the other day, when it seems she was informed of her being the most unworthy as well as meanest of creatures. She then resolved to get rid of her ; but I do not think she would have been so rigorous, if Lord Kennington had not insisted upon it.”

“ You deal in riddles, my friend, (said I) I hope you do not believe me capable of abusing any confidence you

“ might

“ might repose in me. I have no small
 “ interest in Patty’s affairs ; and—I flit
 “ a fee into his hand,—which, alone, can
 “ open (or most effectually silence) the
 “ wide-mouthed pleader.”

“ I don’t see why I should be afraid of
 “ speaking, (observed he as he pocketted
 “ the *tendre*) Mrs. Bateman is notorious
 “ for refusing to give a character of any
 “ servant that leaves her, however de-
 “ serving.”

“ It is not, therefore, well to miss an
 “ opportunity of making a friend :—
 “ and so, sir, to our better acquaintance ;
 “ and now I will tell you all.”

I drew my chair quite close to the ta-
 ble, breathed with the utmost caution,
 for fear of interrupting him, and as im-
 patiently waited for the movement of his
 lips, as a member for the return of the
 votes at a doubtful election.

At length, “ Why, sir, you must know,
 “ that we servants have a means of intel-
 “ ligence peculiar to ourselves, which I

H

“ need

" need not communicate. Many letters
 " passed between Lord Kennington and
 " my Lady, as well as private consulta-
 " tion, before this Patty was introduced
 " at our house. We understood the whole
 " clue. She came, my mistress affected
 " great affection for her, and my Lord
 " was for ever pressing to drop in as if
 " by accident.

" My mistress kept him off as long as
 " she could, as she was sensible Patty
 " had too much understanding not to
 " see through her arts; but, at last, his
 " Lordship's impatience got the better of
 " her fears. He came; she left them
 " together, to the little satisfaction of
 " each party. "This will never do," (said
 " my Lord to my mistress, as she waited
 " on him to the door), "we must fix on
 " some other means."

" "She is a whimsical girl, make the
 " best of her (said my mistress); but your
 " Lordship may depend on me."

" In a few days he renewed his visit;

"but with no better success than before :

"but, perhaps, I tire you."

"You oblige me extremely (said I,

"apprehensive, lest a sudden qualm of

"conscience had seized him); take your

"glass and proceed."

"His Lordship and my mistress; (re-

"sumed he, bowing) were shut up for

"some hours:—high words passed,—

"my mistress was vexed, and, I am cer-

"tain, shed many tears; for her eyes

"were red the whole day after. I was

"sent for an attorney, who received di-

"rections to make out a long bill for

"board and money lent, merely to inti-

"midate her, and take out a writ imme-

"diately:—in a word, sir, the poor girl

"was arrested the next morning.—You

"seem disturbed; I hope she was no re-

"laxation of yours;—but I beg your par-

"don; I had forgot how every thing

"came out."

"Do not mind me, Mr. Robert (af-

"suming all possible composure); I but

"proceed with your story."

“ To be sure, she wept most bitterly,
 “ (added he) and looked at me many
 “ times, as if she had asked me to pity
 “ her.”

“ The bailiff was a rough, ill-natured
 “ fellow. “ It is to no purpose to blub-
 “ ber ; (said he) make a friend, if you
 “ can, and release yourself at once.”

“ I had many friends, (said she) at one
 “ period ; but fear they have all forsaken
 “ me.—Might I be indulged with pen
 “ and ink ?”

“ Aye, aye ; let her write as much as
 “ she will, (said the bailiff) and we will
 “ read it. I think it will be best not to
 “ lose time tho’ — Is the coach ready ?”

“ Patty, (said my mistress) why will
 “ you be obstinate ; you know you may
 “ command any sum you please ; but if you
 “ are determined to persist in being your
 “ own enemy, can you wonder at me ?”

“ Whatever are my sentiments, ma-
 “ dam, (returned she) you do not hear
 “ me complain. I am ready, gentlemen,

“ to

“ to attend you. I will have no friends,
“ but of my own chusing.”

“ My dear Patty, let me prevail with
“ you, (cried my mistress) his Lord—”

“ I have told you, gentlemen, (repeated she, disregarding my mistress) my
“ resolution : — conduct me, therefore,
“ wherever you are authorized.”

“ Well, well, young woman, you will
“ smart for this, take my word for it
“ (said the bailiff) : the house I shall conduct you to is not so fine as this.”

“ My heart bled for her at that time ;
“ but now I know what she is, I make it
“ matter of laughter. And so, sir, if you
“ please, we will drink our friends in the
“ sponging-house.

Audacious rascal ! but there was no
remedy.

“ My mistress (continued he) took the
“ fellow aside, (for it was all a farce, on
“ purpose to fright her) and it was determined that she should stay at our house
“ till the next morning ; the bailiff to

"fit up in the adjoining room to hers.

"My mistress looked very haggard and

"discontented the whole evening. "I

"will have you go with a message from

"me, Robert, (said she) to Patty; poor

"thing! she is very inconsiderate!" I

"was then filling her a glass of wine, to

"her supper, when a great bounce at the

"door surprised us both! My mistress

"was terrified! — "Who can it be,

"so late!" — I soon, however, re-

"lieved her anxiety, by bringing her a

"letter a drunken chairman gave me for

"her, from Lord Kennington; which

"laid the whole of Patty's villainy before

"her." —

"Well, we will pass over that part, if

"you please, (said I.) — "How did she

"behave, afterwards?"

"Quite like a happy woman; and,

"indeed, I never pitied her since. —

"Fetch a coach, this instant, Robert,

"(said she) and see that wicked wretch

"but out of my house, and I shall be

"satisfied."

"The

“ The bailiff seemed very well pleased
 “ at being dismissed :—she got into the
 “ coach with great composure ; nor once
 “ replied to all the reproaches my lady
 “ made her.”

I had heard enough to put me upon
 the rack.—“ I fear I have over-staid my
 “ time, (said I, looking at my watch, as
 “ if surprised.) You must finish the bot-
 “ tle yourself, my friend ; and I hope
 “ we shall meet some other evening.”

I suppose you are already in imagi-
 nation at the sponging-house, condoling
 with the lovely sufferer ! — But not so
 fast ; — the house was shut up, and I
 could not, myself, obtain admittance un-
 til the next morning.

I never was expert at description ; —
 but it was a horrible place. — There she
 sat, pale and wan ; yet with that dignity
 and composure so peculiar to herself.

A faint blush overspread her face, when
 I approached her, and a sparkle of pleasure
 for a moment informed her now-dejected

eye; but, recollecting the treatment she had received at my hands, she turned away her head with the utmost significance.

“I beseech you, madam, (said I) not to add sorrow to the afflicted! I come, at once, to obtain pardon for the past, and to render myself serviceable to you. —I am convinced, most abundantly convinced, that you are the worthiest of your sex, and I a presuming officious—”

“I have been so often deceived, (replied she, in heart-wounding accents) that I have no confidence remaining!—My hopes—but, pray, what has induced you to make me a visit in this gloomy mansion?”

“You can never be so mean as to submit to do Lord Kennington’s dirty work, notwithstanding Mrs. Bateman, by yielding to his importunity, has brought this unmerited distress upon my miserable head.”

“I deserve the reflection, madam, (said I)

“I)

"I) bitter as it is ! but, believe me, to
 " behold you innocent, though in so
 " dreadful a place, gives me more satis-
 " faction than I have words to express !
 " I had some difficulty to discover what
 " they had done with you ; but, from
 " their poorly-devised tale, I concluded
 " some such mischief had befallen you."

" What then ? (returned she, with vi-
 " sible satisfaction.) Do you discredit
 " that notable report ? I thank you,
 " however, for that piece of kindness. I
 " own you had some grounds for your
 " former suspicions ; but to fall a prey
 " to such *little* malice is, beyond measure,
 " mortifying. — It is a noble business,
 " (added she) to join hands upon, when,
 " singly, their power was sufficient to
 " crush so inconsiderable a mortal ! But
 " there is no part of the evil I have suf-
 " fered affects me, except the loss of
 " two worthy hearts, that I had flattered
 " myself were beyond the reach of even
 " the strongest blast of malevolence ! Mrs.

" Bateman

“ Bateman tells me I have not one friend
 “ left.”

“ There must be some mistake, ma-
 “ dam, in that particular as well as many
 “ others. Miss Kennington, indeed, is
 “ neither mistress of her time nor inclina-
 “ tion ; but the honest Shugburgh, I
 “ wonder he has not made some enqui-
 “ ry about you : I must have some con-
 “ versation with him, and learn his
 “ reasons.”

“ I hope, sir, (said she) you will do
 “ me the justice to inform him, it is all
 “ your own act and deed. — Pride is the
 “ infirmity of my nature, notwithstand-
 “ ing all my reputation for the opposite
 “ virtue: nor could I descend to solicit
 “ the friend that was inclined to with-
 “ draw himself.”

It would have been to no purpose to
 offer my assistance ; I therefore, took my
 leave after a little more conversation,
 and sought out Shugburgh, whom I
 had the pleasure to find was not less
 warm in her cause than usual. He

He advised the utmost secrecy in all our steps; feared there had been much foul play; but seemed disposed rather to throw the blame upon Mrs. Bateman than my Lord; and promised to call upon me to-morrow morning.

This is a long letter; but I hope you will allow pretty much to the purpose. I am convinced the father and daughter have been playing into one another's hands, without intending it, by which means this worthy girl has been reduced to such deplorable circumstances. But it is a point, that will neither bear, nor is worth, clearing up, as the malice of the one, and the love of the other, have equally miscarried. Adieu, BRADSHAW.

LETTER LI.

MISS CAREY TO MR. SHUGBURGH.

I Am too well acquainted with your character and disposition, to apprehend you will

will be either offended or alarmed at a little trouble. Poor Miss Kennington's misfortunes seem to multiply upon her head; nor dare I communicate, but through your means, the melancholy news of her mother's death.

The double affliction her mind laboured under, of penury and the loss of a valuable husband, were too much for her delicate frame, nor did the necessity of parting with her daughter sit easy upon her heart. She would not, however, permit me to give the least intimation of her declining state, as she said it could only interrupt her child's pleasures and aggravate her pains, without the least use either to the one or the other.

I have, from real affection (for she was a worthy creature!) as well as the motives of friendship to Miss Kennington, omitted no one thing in my power to cheer and support her, though without success. My Lord's favour reached her too late; she died before the purchase-

money was paid, and it is now in dispute, who has a proper title to it. I fear Miss Kennington is not upon such terms with her uncle, as to derive any advantage to herself in this affair; therefore, in my humble opinion, it will be best to conceal it as long as possible.

You cannot be so well informed of my principles as I am of yours, or it would be unnecessary to assure you I am incapable of deceiving any one.

It was Mrs. Kennington's dying request, that her daughter should rather consult her happiness than interest, and accept Mr. Fleetwood's generous proposals.

His brother lives only a few miles from us, and was introduced to our acquaintance one fortnight before Mrs. Kennington's decease: she has given her consent, under her hand to that gentleman, which I dare believe he will remit you by the earliest opportunity.

In one of his visits "I have not a wish
" (said

“ (said she to Mr. Fleetwood) beyond
 “ bestowing my daughter upon your bro-
 “ ther, as you so warmly interest yourself
 “ in his satisfactions. I know what love
 “ is; you behold me a martyr to the ten-
 “ derest attachment — yet, perhaps, all
 “ the evil of my life had been prevented,
 “ if I had duly attended to the impor-
 “ tance of being well-received by the
 “ family of my husband. — Sally, by
 “ making your brother happy, will avoid
 “ the rock of my destruction, (for I shall
 “ ever think that poor Mr. Kennington’s
 “ life was shortened by the ill usage of
 “ his relations on my account) and it is
 “ infinitely consoling to me, in these my
 “ last moments, to reflect upon her fa-
 “ vourable prospects.”

“ Intreat Mr. Shugburgh to perform
 “ that office the hand of death denied
 “ her doating father! and may their
 “ union reap the benefits of the departing
 “ blessing of a most affectionate mother!
 “ — Oh, sir! forgive me, if I mention

“ she

“ she was both a most lovely and valuable woman !—But all is over, and encomiums are of little use.”

My dear Miss Kennington is now deprived of every protection and provision, but what she must either derive from my Lord or Mr. Fleetwood. You are no stranger to his cruel purposes ; and, should you permit her to be sacrificed, would be the most inhumane of the two. Pardon my warmth ; but the subject requires it : her nature is soft, gentle, and ill-suited to affliction ;—and the grave would soon hide her forever from our eyes.

I have no doubt of your inclination to serve her ; but do not, my good sir, suffer that inclination to be restrained or overcome, by any consideration on earth !—Ought any thing to be put in competition with so valuable a life ?

I am convinced you have the power to save her ; I will therefore, be so bold as to tell you, that I shall require her happiness at your hands ; and am, sir, &c.

D. CAREY.

LETTER LII.

Miss KENNINGTON to Miss CAREY.

THINGS are now, my dear Dolly, approaching to a crisis; my wedding-cloaths are already providing; judge, then, if my date at Lord Kennington's is not short.

Mr. Shuburgh tells me the winds are against me, or I should be miserably impatient for an answer to my last letter.

Do not omit writing by the first opportunity. Poor Patty Price, to what an unhappy state has she brought herself!—

She is in custody, my dear, as Mr. Bradshaw informed Mr. Shugburgh yesterday.

I wish once more to see her; but know not how to accomplish it. This mortal of a man never leaves me an instant.

Should she procure her enlargement, as I doubt not but she will, by Mr. Shugburgh's means, I will look upon her, with

even

even this evil one at my elbow (since it cannot be avoided) rather than forego the desire of my heart.

Mr. Fleetwood is upon the rack for my determination. What can I say to him?

My mother and yourself have the entire disposal of me.

Mr. Shugburgh has been with me;—and is it possible, Dolly, that my dear mother and you are equally unanimous with my inclination? Indeed, you can never repent your favourable sentiments of this worthy young gentleman:—but my commendation will but little avail him, as I shall be supposed to be too partial to judge him fairly.

Had Patty Price—I cannot wean my wishes from her, however convinced of their folly and impropriety. She was all;—but I have done: her gross dissimulation has set my heart at liberty.

Mr. Shugburgh is to provide a place for my reception: expedition is necessary, or

I shall be undone. I am indebted to Lady Sarah for these hasty preparations in Mr. Smith's favour; as she cannot rest, it seems, until I am honourably disposed of.

Honour is with her an empty name, or she would never so vilely prostitute it; for the union that is effected contrary to the inclination, must, of course, be strictly conformable both with honour and conscience.

If once I was but delivered out of this house, I should be in no hurry to change my condition. My early time of life, and the want of a supporting female, would incline me to postpone the affair until my arrival in England. — I have, however, promised to be implicitly governed by my worthy Mr. Shugburgh.

I hope I shall not be obliged to see Lord Finly — what melancholy reflections we should both of us experience! — Our taste, our attachment — It is surely extraordinary, that I cannot keep clear of that

3 unhappy

He is resolved not only to set Patty at liberty, from her present disgraceful confinement, but to place her some-where in ease and security; and (if she will, at length, be prevailed upon to communicate some few particulars to justify her conduct) she is to be perfectly restored to all her former estimation and consequence.

I can read Finly's wishes in his eyes; but she is so extravagantly nice, that I fear we must take our trip without her; tho', believe me, my friend, there will be a good many words to that bargain.

We are all to embark for the South of France so soon as the ceremony is over, and I hope some gayer scenes will await us than we have of late been engaged in. We are to visit Patty in the afternoon.

* * * * *

We have not only made our visit to Patty, but have delivered her from du-rance. It was a most iniquitous action, and would but little redound to the honour of the parties concerned in it, if fair-

ly

ly stated. But private motives of our own will preserve them from the world's censure.

“ My poor girl ! (said Mr. Shugburgh, in the tenderest accents) your sufferings have been great ! but Providence, you see, has never absolutely forsaken you ! If you have passed your days innocently, you are, indeed, a most valuable creature ! but if vice has ever been familiar to your heart, I hope the great mercies you have experienced, will incite you to renounce it for ever. Vice, (continued he) is a worm that must perpetually prey upon such a mind as yours.

“ So sensible of every requisite in the female character--of lovely delicacy, propriety, and sincerity, how could you support the consciousness of acting in direct opposition to the lights you are blessed with ? But do not let me wound where I wish to heal ! Only be persuaded to try no more experiments ;

“but, by accepting of that protection I
 “have long wished to afford you, avoid
 “every future evil.”

“Alas, sir! (said she) I have no choice
 “remaining: dispose of me as you please.
 “My gratitude, my warmest affection
 “shall be ever yours.

“I am now convinced I have acted upon
 “a wrong plan; I knew nothing of life
 “or mankind, or I should not thus have
 “exposed myself. My history seems to
 “have attained its termination, and I can
 “plead no further excuse, even to my
 “own heart, for longer concealment. But
 “Miss Kennington (added she, sighing)
 “must be present at the opening of it;
 “for, sir, it is a story that can be told
 “but once.”

The alteration in her voice, and the de-
 jection of her countenance, at this period,
 chilled my very soul—Of what nature
 can her adventures be?

Mr. Shugburgh, who is past the age of
 curiosity, and whose benevolence is supe-
 rior to every other passion, replied:

"We will wait your own time, my
 "child; — you rejoice me to hear you
 "talk so rationally. How inconsistent to
 "call those friends, you are afraid to trust
 "with any particulars: I always consid-
 "ered your obstinacy, in that respect, as
 "the worst part of your character."

We lodged her once more at her friend
 the milliner's; but, you may be assured,
 she will never again appear behind the
 counter. I am, &c. BRADSHAW.



LETTER LIV.

Lady SARAH KENNINGTON to Miss
 TURNER.

Dear Miss TURNER,

WHAT an unfortunate wretch I am!
 Patty is oncemore triumphant, and
 all my schemes blown unsuccessfully off!

It seems the tale would not have been
 suspected if the angelic soul had not been
 placed so low as an honest Crispin's daugh-

ter. I own I did not sufficiently attend to that circumstance, or the colouring should have been more judiciously bestowed.

After all, I believe she will slip through my fingers, unless you can prevail upon yourself to return to Dublin. Your sister is a clumsy plotter as well as myself; but your abilities, I know, may be depended upon.

Absolutely now, I think I should have been taken in by that appearance of sincerity my woman assumed; but her being recommended by Squib, was the bane of her credit and my happiness.

I will not be so hasty for the future; — but will examine a business through all its turnings before I hazard the execution of it. — But enough of this subject for the present.

Sarah's match goes smoothly on; but I have been so accustomed to disappointment lately, that I shall not depend upon any event that is not actually past.

If any evil accident should intervene on

this

this occasion, Mr. Shugburgh will be the author of it. I cannot imagine how my Lord can entertain such a fellow in his house, to be a spy, nay, a check truly, upon all his actions. Times are greatly altered; for, would you believe it, he has had the vanity and presumption, more than once, to attempt to restrain both him and me from following our own inclinations.

He has, indeed, a good decent sum of money in his power; but I despair of ever fingering a single shilling; for our tastes, (the poor!) opinions rather, are so diametrically opposite, that I am sensible he regards me as a desperate fine lady; and I look upon him as as a kind of half-polished savage.

But where can this low wretch have concealed herself? Our doors, I am positive, were shut against her and all her gang; nor can I conceive (now your sister has given her up) that one creature in all Dublin would be so madly absurd as to take her under their roof.

Her artifice, nevertheless, is immeasurable ; nor can any accident, or cross-attack, throw her out of her element. It is plain she is unable to produce one person to speak favourably of her, or she would, on this occasion, have drawn them forth.

We never are to be satisfied : my first wish was merely to drive her to a distance, and now I regret that she has escaped my power. Only think of Brett's ingenuity ! she had never seen Mrs. Patty's face in her life, or heard a syllable concerning her ; yet, from my representation, undertook to handle her ; for which end she became the most pliable useful thing in nature to Sarah.

" My dear miss, I am never so happy
" as when obeying your commands ; I
" am going out this afternoon ; have you
" no message to any of your trades-people ?
" no little employment for me ? "

Yes, the fool had a letter to Miss Price ;
Brett brought it to me, I turned it inside

out,

out, with the utmost dexterity :—all stuff and nonsense ! — She conveyed it safe, obtained a sight of the lady, and returned home in the best-dissembled flutter I ever saw in my life.

My Lord, old Shugburgh, and I, were together : Miss Sarah had stole away, to her pen, I suppose.

“ What is the matter, Brett ? (demanded I) You are discomposed.”

“ Oh, madam ! (cried she) I dare not tell you.”

“ Pray, Mrs. Brett, (said my father, smiling) consider, a lady’s curiosity must not be trifled with ; and, upon my honour, to confess the truth, I feel myself rather inquisitive upon the occasion.”

“ Nay, madam, (resumed she) nothing but Miss Price, I think she is called.

—Well, Lord bless us ! how mischief will out ! I little thought of seeing her in Ireland !”

“ Why, do you know any thing of

“ her

“her?” exclaimed each of the gentlemen, in the same instant.

“More than is good, I can assure your Lordship! (said she, smartly) she has led a most irregular life! and is now upon her wits, I suppose, for a livelihood.”

My Lord’s countenance brightened, Shugburgh lowered, with mortification, —whilst Brett related the particulars, you received by the last post; but they, neither of them, vouchsafed to speak their sentiments. His Lordship wrote a letter instantly, —dispatched it by a chairman, and ordered his coach to be ready in the morning.

It seems Mrs. Patty and Mrs. Bateman are but upon indifferent terms; for she seemed under great uneasiness, and your sister conducted Brett to and from her, herself, as if she was apprehensive of tales: — and, what was very extraordinary, two ill-looking fellows were stuck up in a corner of the room, as if on some important business.

I shall

I shall renew my enquiries to-morrow, and hope to give you a more satisfactory account of your, &c. S. KENNINGTON.



LETTER LV.

Miss KENNINGTON to Miss CAREY.

PATTY, my dear girl, is restored to liberty, and an almost equal degree of credit and approbation as usual. Mr. Bradshaw, as I told you, discovered the place of confinement, and, notwithstanding her distressful condition, her prudence remained unsubdued; nor would she accept of his services in any respect.

He said he would apply to Mr. Shugburgh in her favour; she did not oppose that offer; yet begged he would not make use of her name, as she could not think of soliciting friendship that, in appearance, was cooled.

He flew with his accustomed benevolence to relieve her, made satisfaction for

most

a most unjust demand, and reconveyed her to Mrs. Trueman's, who received her with transports.

It seems they had a good deal of conversation. — Patty's spirits were low. She confessed an ill-natured world was too mighty to contend with; and therefore she found herself disposed to communicate the particulars of her life, previous to our knowledge of her; but intreated Mr. Shugburgh would bring me to be present at the relation.

I never was so impatient, under restraint, as at this period. — What can she say in her justification? — How account for some mysterious parts of her conduct? I remember, indeed, she assured me at Holyhead, with the strongest appearance of sincerity, that her reserve did not result from guilt; it is, nevertheless, very extraordinary, to have run through so many difficulties that might have been avoided, by clearing up our doubts respecting her connexions.

If

If she can give us all the satisfaction I am inclined to hope for, what unexpected happiness will it be to my heart, which, in spite of all the cruel aspersions of her enemies, yearns unspeakably towards her;

But this odious Smith, to give him the slip will be no easy matter; wherever I go he is my constant companion; and, unless I hazard his picking up a tale for Lady Sarah at Mrs. Trueman's, by taking him with me under pretence of buying some finery, I must deny myself the pleasure she is inclined to give me until Mr. Shugburgh's scheme is ripe for execution.

Yet, surely, no bad consequence could attend my yielding to the strong impulse of my curiosity.—It is impossible but the over-grown creature might amuse himself for one half hour at least, amongst a set of lively girls, without my presence.—I believe I shall try the experiment in all events.

* * * * *

Most

Most dearly, Dolly, have I paid for my folly and impatience. I am unacquainted with particulars ;—but learnt enough to convince me that Patty is a woman of birth and fortune, and a near relation of this vile Smith's, who has been gaping for the honour of my hand. I admired myself for my policy in making an appointment with him for the morning's walk. He proposed the Park ; but I told him it must rather be a morning of business than amusement ; for that I must go a shopping, and he should attend me.

I called at several milliners in our way to Dartmouth-street, and affected to enquire for a ribbon to match a bit of silk I had with me :—none could accommodate me, and we soon reached Mrs. True-man's, who no sooner heard my voice, than she ran to inform me that Miss Patty was impatient to see me.

Mr. Smith's back was towards her at this instant ;—he turned abruptly upon her—with a strange wild countenance,—

“ And

“ And I too, (he cried) am equally impatient to see Miss Patty.”

Down she dropped as his feet in a dreadful swoon.

“ Come, come, Sweetheart, (said the hard-natured wretch, disregarding Mrs. Trueman’s condition) conduct us immediately to her.”

The girl he spoke to, officiously obeyed. He took my hand, — I trembled with apprehension of I knew not what; but was compelled to follow our indiscreet conductress into the dining-room.

Patty lifted up her eyes, as the door opened, — her colour forsook her —

“ My dear Miss Kennington, (said she, calmly) you have ruined me for ever !”

“ Ten thousand blessings on this hour !

“ (cried Smith) Miss Sommerville is found !

“ After all my fruitless search, dropped in-

“ to my very mouth ; nor shall she hence-

“ forth, elude my vigilance. My sweetest

“ cousin, am I ever to behold an averted

“ aspect ?”

“If you have any humanity, (cried she) my dear madam; do not leave me at the mercy of this man!”

“A pretty jest, faith! (returned Smith) am I not the properest person to restore the fugitive! your father has a right to expect that favour at my hands.”
 “You must excuse me, Miss Kennington; a chair shall be sent for, to convey you home; for I cannot hazard the loss of so newly-recovered and so valuable a prize, on any consideration.”

“Oh, Mr. Shugburgh! (exclaimed the afflicted girl) my best, my only friend, that I had but listened to your advice, — I should have escaped this greatest of evils!”

“Distraction! (cried Smith, looking horribly) — What fellow does she mean? Is it your old Shugburgh, Miss Kennington?” — “It is, sir, (returned L.)” He grinned with pleasure! — “He is too crazy a champion, (resumed he) for so important a cause; — but, madam,

"madam, would you please to have a
"chair?"

"Why, really, sir, you are very gen-
"teel, (said I) to attempt turning me out
"of a house where, I presume, you have
"as little authority as myself: I must,
"therefore, beg your pardon; — for I
"shall not leave Miss Price without good
"and sufficient reasons."

"Price! (repeated he, with a sneer)
"so that is your travelling name, ma-
"dam! — Sir Edward Sommerville will
"be very proud to hear of all your pro-
"ceedings."

"I suppose, Miss Kennington, (continu-
"ed he) it cannot be necessary to procure
"your absence, to give you any further
"information than that I am that Lady's
"very near relation, and will most cer-
"tainly convey her safe to her much af-
"flicted and injured father."

"Madam, (said Mrs. Trueman, open-
"ing the door) do not pay the least re-
"gard to what that man says; — he is a
"cruel enemy!"

“Be silent, woman, (cried he sternly)
 “unless you will bear witness to the
 “truth: am I not—”
 “I have sent for Mr. Shugburgh, (re-
 “turned Mrs. Trueman, with an air of
 “exultation) and I now hear him upon
 “the stairs: you will find it no easy
 “matter to silence him on a wrong foun-
 “dation.”

The good man instantly appeared; but
 I am so fatigued with the scene, and the
 recollection of it is so painful to me, that
 I must have some rest before I enter into
 the recital of it. I am most unhappy to
 have occasioned;—but I will tell you all
 by the next post, and am, &c.

S. KENNINGTON.

LETTER LVI.

From the Same to the Same.

SMITH affected to smile upon Mr.
 Shugburgh. “I have no doubt, fir,

“ (said

“ (said he) but you are too well-bred to
 “ interfere in any business that does not
 “ concern you. That lady thought proper,
 “ some few months ago, to elope from
 “ her father Sir Edward Sommerville, who
 “ has been inconsolable ever since. I have
 “ the honour, as you well know, to be
 “ nephew to that gentleman; and, in or-
 “ der to relieve his anxiety, have spared
 “ neither labour nor expence to disco-
 “ ver her hiding-place. But, in vain,
 “ that woman (pointing to Mrs. True-
 “ man) is the rebel’s encourager and
 “ support.

“ She formerly lived in the family; but
 “ was discharged for some misdemeanor,
 “ and has wandered to this place, I sup-
 “ pose to shelter herself from punish-
 “ ment. Judge, then, (continued he) if
 “ she is a proper person to be trusted
 “ with the care of a young lady she has
 “ evidently seduced from her friends, and
 “ would incite to continue for ever at
 “ variance with them.”

“ My dear madam, (said Mr. Shug-
 “ burgh, undmindful of this fine ha-
 “ rangue) I loved and esteemed you from
 “ our first acquaintance : my protection
 “ has been frequently offered unsolicited ;
 “ nor had I a wish beyond serving and sav-
 “ ing you from distress and difficulties.

“ You hear this gentleman's tale ; he
 “ cannot be offended at my not paying
 “ implicit faith to all he relates ;—you
 “ best know your own affairs ;—if it is
 “ with your approbation”

“ Do not once mention it, sir ; (said
 “ she)—there is no calamity I would
 “ not chearfully embrace to avoid falling
 “ again into his power ! — How unfor-
 “ tunate that I delayed acquainting you
 “ with my family ! — but the apprehen-
 “ sion of being delivered up to that
 “ wretch !—He is, sir, the most enter-
 “ prising and hypocritical—”

“ Obliging creature ! (cried he, with
 “ some exultation) What rage can equal
 “ that of a disappointed woman ! — but

“ neither

“neither your idle distress, nor this gentleman’s extravagant humanity, shall avail you!--You must to England,”

“I was far from intending to quit this country, at present, (said Mr. Shugburgh, smiling) but my dear little friend shall not go without me. The father of this lady, sir, cannot be offended at my zeal. I have, within these four-and-twenty hours, delivered her from one extremity, and will not behold her plunged, perhaps, into a greater, without assisting her. Let us, therefore, (added the good man) act in concert, Mr. Smith, as we have both the same object in view, Miss Sommerville’s happiness. I never yet forfeited my word; and, unless justified by your conduct, will not take a step without you.”

“A pretty whimsical proposition! (returned Smith) however, sir, I shall not oppose so powerful a party. We will all go together, if you please, my little-intended, the sweet Miss Kennington

“ — Patty’s agent, the wife Mrs. True-
 “ man—her protector, the officious Mr.
 “ Shugburgh,—and her cruel persecutor,
 “ the odious Mr. Smith!— (I think I have
 “ bestowed the proper epithets.) — But
 “ Mrs. Trueman, you must lodge me; for I
 “ will not quit your house till we embark.”

“ Your family will be finely increased
 “ then, madam; (said Mr. Shugburgh)
 “ for I am determined to follow so excel-
 “ lent an example.” — “ You may, Miss
 “ Kennington, (added he, with the utmost
 “ kindness) safely trust your friend to my
 “ care,—and make what excuse you please
 “ for my absence.—I do not wish to pal-
 “ liate on my own account: in so good a
 “ cause we can never be too busy, Mr.
 “ Smith, in well-doing.”

Smith sincere, and with an amazing
 confidence drew his chair close to Patty,
 whose countenance bespoke the utmost
 perplexity and anguish.

I knew not how to act; Mrs. True-
 man’s eyes intreated my stay, Patty kept
 hers

hers fixed upon the ground, Mr. Shugburgh was lost in meditation, whilst the hardened Smith seemed to enjoy the general distress and confusion!

Not a word passed for some time:—at length, Mr. Shugburgh recollecting himself, said “I am sorry, Miss Kennington, we are
“under a necessity of losing your com-
“pany;—but your uncle will be uneasy,
“—and you see we are none of us dis-
“posed to be social. — Perhaps, if you
“can contrive to look in upon us in the
“evening, we may have overcome our
“chagrin, and—”

I arose immediately. — Patty burst into tears; but did not attempt to detain me.

“No ceremony, (said Smith, sarcasti-
“cally)—Miss Kennington is no friend
“to ceremony: we are all upon honour,
“and will have no private conferences.”

Mrs. Trueman rang the bell, and the same young woman attended me to my chair that was so unhappily forward in leading

leading us into the scene we had been engaged in. — Where it will end is beyond my utmost conception.

My Lord Kennington was in one of his over-pettish humours, and gave me but an indifferent reception. I told him the gentlemen had met with some unexpected company, and bade me apologize. —

“ It is very fine, (cried he) — people
 “ have no consideration but for them-
 “ selves ; — indisposed, low-spirited, — a
 “ pretty entertaining companion they have
 “ sent me ! — and Lady Sarah, too, has
 “ contrived to be absent !”

What a prospect of felicity for me ! The dinner was served up.

My heart depressed, my appetite lost, I apprehended his Lordship's severest displeasure would every instant break forth, He helped me to several things : — the plate was sent away in the same condition I received it ; his eyes met mine : — I was confused ; — a stern rebuke was poor encouragement to recover myself ; nor do I

know a situation on earth I should not have thought preferable to the one I was then in.

The servants withdrawn, he yawned,

“ *Music has charms to sooth a—* We will

“ try the experiment. What say you,

“ Mrs. Sarah, to obliging me with a soft

“ tune to harmonize my at present dissa-

“ tised soul. I will recline on this couch,

“ forget my forlorn state,—and,—if pos-

“ sible, your—stupidity !”

I played to the unmerciful tyrant for three succeeding hours, when, out of compassion to my own weariness, I ventured to desist, though I expected a smart reprimand would be the consequence.

I soon found, however, that I had nothing to fear ; for I had so literally fulfilled his desire of harmonizing his senses, that he was fallen into a profound sleep, which continued till supper-time.

I should not be so prolix on so trifling a subject, Dolly, but in order to make you sensible that every state of mortification has its advantage ; for my Lord’s fellow, immediately

diately on my noise ceasing, tapped at the door, and delivered me a note from Mr. Shugburgh, which I would not, for the world, his Lordship should have seen; nor could any other than the incident I have related, secured it from examination.

The good man informs me, that Smith persists in his disagreeable behaviour, and so closely watches him, that he is unable to exchange one private word with Patty: —the reason of which he very naturally concludes, is the preventing her from giving him his true character. He wishes it was possible for me to get to the speech of Mrs. Trueman; but fears it will be as little practicable as the other.

Never was there so insolent and overbearing a creature as Smith, nor so helpless and deplorable a creature as I am.

My Lord awaked with astonishment! —

“How’s this, Sarah? (said he) you must
“be a powerful musician to subdue such
“faculties as mine. — Have I been long
“asleep?”

“Some hours, my Lord.”

Ah,

“ Ah, *la barbara!* (exclaimed he, shrugging his shoulders) and so pretty a soul attending me! — but you are a most egregious dull one! — (added he) and, therefore it is no reflection. Had you but half your beauty, as I have frequently observed to you, with a tolerable decent share of vivacity, you would be a thousand times more eligible. I will leave you, however, to your meditations, and follow Lady Sarah. — I shall be early enough to take two or three chapters in the history of the four kings; — therefore, a good evening to you.”

Thus, released from persecution, I flew to my pen, and, to relieve my own breast, must be troublesome to you. Yet, my dear, I know you will not only lament the cause, but grieve for the effect. — I shall have a dreadful night of it; nor will the uncertainty of my own affairs fail to aggravate my heart-felt affliction.

I am, &c.

S. KENNINGTON.



LETTER LVII.

From the Same to the Same.

AT six o'clock, this morning, my dear, a girl from Mrs. Trueman's, loaded with band-boxes, entered my apartment.

"My mistress, (said she) madam, was determined to be punctual, and hopes you will approve of what she has now sent you."

Mrs. Brett having heard thus far, was so civil as to trust us together, not in the least suspecting (as many preparations of the kind are going forwards) her errand had a further meaning; but I had better hopes.

The moment we had an opportunity, she gave a long letter from Miss Somerville;—and, notwithstanding all my impatience to make myself acquainted with its contents, I was compelled (for fear of being surpris'd) to slip it into my pocket unopened, and turn over a heap of senseless finery, which I beheld as *vanity*, and felt to be *vexation* of spirit.

Due

Due time having elapsed to cover the innocent deceit, I dispatched her with a good grace, and, securing my door, I drew out Patty's epistle, and read as follows:

MISS SOMMERVILE TO MISS KENNINGTON.

" BELIEVE me, my dear Miss Ken-
 " nington, that events are by no means
 " within the power of mortality. To some
 " it is appointed to be the instrument of
 " good to their fellow-creatures, tho' con-
 " trary to their wishes and intentions;
 " —and to others, of evil, however re-
 " pugnant to their natures and inclina-
 " tions: the latter of which, the calamity
 " you have so innocently brought upon
 " me, is a recent and most convincing
 " proof: — and where the hand of Pro-
 " vidence is conspicuous, murmurings
 " must not be heard.

" Had I proceeded with less caution, I
 " had been more secure; but where liber-
 " ty and life is in danger, every appre-
 " hension will be alive. The

“ The first commencement of our acquaintance, so singular ; the discovery
“ of my situation at Mrs. Trueman’s, so
“ premature, had I given you the particulars I now mean to lay before you,
“ would you not have required some farther testimony than my bare relation ?
“ I am convinced, however, your tender
“ unsuspecting heart might have been
“ disposed on such an occasion, the malice of Lady Sarah would have wrought
“ my destruction. — The day has, indeed been procrastinated ; but could
“ not be erased from the book of fate !
“ Smith did not deceive you, when he
“ told you I was Sir Edward Sommer-
“ vile’s daughter ; but he claims a degree of consanguinity to that gentleman he does not stand in. It is a
“ hard task for a child to paint the author of her existence in guilty colours !
“ but justice, self-preservation, and integrity compel me to perform it. Read,
“ then, my sweet friend, what I so fatally
“ reserved for your ear. Sir

“ Sir Edward was the last remaining heir
 “ of the Sommersvilles, and had the mis-
 “ fortune to lose both father and mother
 “ at an early period ; a misfortune that
 “ I have reason ever to deplore.

“ His grand-mother (whose extravagant
 “ fondness for him, in all probability,
 “ laid the foundation of every error he
 “ has fallen into) undertook the care of
 “ his infancy. Her child should not be
 “ tormented with the common methods of
 “ education ; he should have a companion
 “ to *play* him into learning, and what ge-
 “ nius and emulation could not effect,
 “ flogging never should.— Thus, in order
 “ to save him from salutary correction,
 “ she delivered him up to the tyranny of
 “ a perverse and turbulent will.

“ Having run through every cruel and
 “ idle folly his age was capable of, his com-
 “ panion, at length introduced him into
 “ vicious scenes. One Miss Smith, a girl
 “ in the neighbourhood, became his part-
 “ ner in iniquity, who brought him a son

“ some few months before he was nineteen.

“ He rejoiced exceedingly in his birth,
“ gave him his own name, and declared
“ he would give him his estate likewise.

“ Their criminal intercourse continued
“ some years : he had several other chil-
“ dren ; but they all died young : nor
“ did the mother long survive them.

“ At three-and-thirty my mother un-
“ fortunately took his fancy. — His estate
“ was an undeniable recommendation
“ with a family that could boast of little
“ more than a bare competence ; especi-
“ ally as it was inheritable, no less by
“ male than female issue.

“ She heard but little of the man, his
“ house, his equipage, his great professi-
“ ons not suffering much mention to be
“ made of him : in short, they talked her
“ into the match, notwithstanding ambi-
“ tion was, by no means her most prevailing
“ inclination ; and she soon experienced
“ how unavailing the power of riches
“ is where happiness is wanting.

“ Sir

“ Sir Edward affected to profess the
 “ highest regard for her, even when he
 “ treated her with the most barbarity ;
 “ nor did her giving him a daughter, in
 “ any degree mitigate her sufferings.

“ The darling boy (now sixteen) took the
 “ alarm ! — Sir Edward’s affections would
 “ be weaned from him by my Lady’s artful
 “ management ; nor would any thing less
 “ satisfy him than being introduced into
 “ the family as a relation of some kind.

“ Sir Edward was unable to deny Ned-
 “ dy’s modest request, and he was accord-
 “ ingly imposed upon my mother for his
 “ sister’s son. She saw so little company,
 “ and her knowledge of his connexions
 “ were so limited, that she had no oppor-
 “ tunity of being undeceived ; especially
 “ as to give the better colour to the de-
 “ ception, she was told his father and
 “ mother died abroad.

“ No being was ever more wicked than
 “ this lad ; yet Sir Edward would not
 “ see it : it was jealousy ! it was malice !

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 “ this lad ; yet Sir Edward would not
 “ see it : it was jealousy ! it was malice !

“ —My mother considered him as a spy,
 “ and wanted him removed. As for my
 “ part, I beheld him with terror for the
 “ first twelve years of my life (as he was
 “ ever torturing and tormenting me)
 “ when, all of a sudden, he began to af-
 “ fect a wonderful kindness for me, and
 “ would go no-where without Patty.

“ My mother observed this change with
 “ pleasure, until I was near fifteen; —
 “ when she became alarmed, at his increas-
 “ ing assiduity, and often remonstrated with
 “ Sir Edward on its impropriety. Their
 “ opinions, however, dissented on this as
 “ well as every other occasion; — she was
 “ an unreasonable woman, and nothing
 “ would satisfy her. — Poor Ned, he was
 “ always too officious or too negligent.

“ We lived in a kind of splendid capti-
 “ vity, and was seldom seen out of our
 “ own park or gardens, except at church.
 “ I had only one acquaintance upon
 “ earth at my school-intervals, — the par-
 “ son's daughter; but she was, perhaps,

“ the

“ the most useful acquaintance the whole
 “ earth could have furnished me with.

“ She taught me to chuse the best au-
 “ thors for my amusement, corrected my
 “ judgment, and improved my principles.

“ —She first made me sensible of Sir Ed-
 “ ward’s base designs ; and to her superior
 “ knowledge I am indebted for the years
 “ of innocence I have passed.

“ My mother, borne down by dejection,
 “ lived only to see me sixteen, — when
 “ she was released from the most cruel
 “ bondage—that of the soul.

“ She had been buried only a few
 “ months, before my father intimated
 “ that he had some thoughts, as he scarce-
 “ ly knew which he loved best, Patty or
 “ Edward, to give both an equal right to
 “ his estate.

“ I confess I did not understand him ;
 “ but my fine cousin soon explained the
 “ matter, by actually proposing himself
 “ for my lover.

“ I was shocked and surprised ; but
 “ did

“ did not fly out upon the occasion, as I
 “ was far from apprehending (so odious was
 “ his general character) that my father
 “ could countenance such an enormity !

“ My friend, Miss Stainby, had long
 “ suspected his intentions, and enjoined
 “ me in the most solemn manner to make
 “ her acquainted with the earliest over-
 “ tures.

“ I did so ; but how shall I describe my
 “ horror and astonishment, when she in-
 “ formed me we were brother and sister !

“ The more I reflected on every circum-
 “ stance, the more I was convinced she
 “ did not deceive me ; but if I had enter-
 “ tained a doubt, she took the most effec-
 “ tual method to remove it ;—taking me
 “ to his nurse.

“ The woman had been reduced to the
 “ greatest extremities, and, in vain, ap-
 “ plied to Sir Edward for relief, for hav-
 “ ing slightly disoblged him ; — which
 “ so incensed her, that, out of revenge,
 “ she came privately to my mother, and
 “ revealed the whole affair. “ This

“ This step answered her purpose, tho’
 “ not her expectations : she obtained as-
 “ sistance, but was forbid, on the forfei-
 “ ture of all future favour, to tell her tale
 “ to any other person, except Miss Stainf-
 “ by, who, by my mother’s direction wrote
 “ down every particular.

“ The reason, (said that dear relation)
 “ of my proceeding in this manner, is my
 “ apprehensions for my child. I am no
 “ stranger either to the wickedness of the
 “ the son’s heart, or the influence he pos-
 “ sesses with his father. I do hope Sir Ed-
 “ ward has too much conscience to con-
 “ sent to incest ; but he may be taken
 “ away, and Patty innocently drawn into
 “ so great an evil. — He is a wretch ; but
 “ his artifice and address might delude a
 “ youthful heart into a more tolerable
 “ opinion, nor could I die in peace if I
 “ omitted one precaution to avert such
 “ unnatural infamy.”
 “ Judge of my feelings under these con-
 “ victions. I shuddered at his approach :

L 4 “ —and,

"—and, with regard to Sir Edward,—

"I cannot speak my horror! I think

"Things continued much in the same

"situation until I was turned eighteen,

"when they began to wear the face of

"preparation:—my father (publicly in

"his own family, at least) talking of Ed-

"ward's changing his name by act of

"parliament, some short time before his

"marriage with — I cannot finish the

"dreadful sentence. new boy 169 I 100

"I was returning one evening from a

"melancholy walk in the park, when in

"an unlucky moment Smith came across

"me, and was particularly troublesome.

"Unable to resist his rude attempts to

"kiss me, and no less unable to endure

"the disgust those attempts occasioned

"me, I was weak enough to acknowledge

"that I knew him for what he was!

"I found my error when it was too

"late; he had now no measures to

"keep with me, but repeated, nay, in-

"creased his brutality; and what might

"have

“have been the consequence I dare not
 “think, if a strange gentleman had not
 “by accident strolled into the park, and
 “given me an opportunity of escaping.”

“I was so terrified at his behaviour,
 “that, without a moment’s reflection, I
 “flew to Miss Stainby, and told her
 “what had happened. *gained a friend*”

“I put you, my dear Miss Sommer-
 “vile,” (said she) “and would advise you;
 “but I fear you want resolution.”

“What to avoid incest!” demanded I.

“Well, my good girl (said she) we will
 “put it to the test. — I know the diabo-
 “lical principle your father acts upon;
 “but it is too pernicious to trust a young
 “mind with. — This is your hour of
 “deliverance; — if you re-enter that
 “house, you are lost for ever!”

“No words can express what I experi-
 “enced: — I looked upon her as my guar-
 “dian-angel, and was impatient to exe-
 “cute whatever she might prescribe.”

“You remember Hannah,” (resumed
 “she)

“ she) that lived ten years with your mo-
“ ther, and was discharged merely to
“ mortify and grieve her;—she is now a
“ widow, and keeps a milliner’s shop in
“ Dublin.
“ — We have always corresponded, and
“ I could trust my life in her hands.
“ With her you may depend on the kind-
“ est reception, and most friendly pro-
“ tection.”
“ I had but two guineas about me, and
“ not one change of dress; I nevertheless
“ resolved to abandon every thing in such
“ a cause.
“ She produced her little hoard, which
“ amounted to treble the sum of mine, and
“ having accommodated me with linen
“ and an outside covering (but little
“ known in the neighbourhood) we set
“ out together for the town at about three
“ miles distance, where coaches and wag-
“ gons continually baited in their way to
“ London.
“ Fortunately for me, there was a
“ mourning-

“ mourning-coach ready to leave the door ;
 “ I took a hasty farewell of my tender
 “ friend, and with my small pittance ar-
 “ rived safe the next evening at Char-
 “ ing-cross : the following morning, the
 “ Chester-machine conveyed me, with the
 “ utmost expedition, many miles on my
 “ journey to that city. I enquired the
 “ cheapest way of travelling to Dublin,
 “ and was advised to go to Holyhead, as
 “ the packet could pass and repass with
 “ a side-wind only, whilst passengers re-
 “ mained at a very great expence at
 “ Parkgate.

“ Thus, my dear madam, was I cast
 “ in your way, and I dare believe you
 “ will think the conduct I observed high-
 “ ly necessary in my circumstances. I
 “ have received several letters from Miss
 “ Stainsby, which never failed to intimi-
 “ date me, and confirm me in my reso-
 “ lution, of concealing my family ; for
 “ the monster has been frequently heard
 “ to declare, that he will hazard his neck

“ to

“ to prevent my marrying any other person.
“ son.

“ What then have I not to apprehend.
“ from so desperate a villain ! — if Lord.

“ Finly’s approbation was to reach his

“ knowledge, one or both of us would be.

“ surely sacrificed.—Had I not, therefore,

“ sufficient reason to—but, adieu to Lord

“ Finly and every hope; for, unless Smith

“ may be permitted to convey me to my

“ father for his own purposes, you may

“ depend upon it he will destroy me.

“ Mr. Shugburgh is the most extraor-

“ dinary man I ever met with ; he watches

“ over me with an affection truly benevo-

“ lent, and should any accident befall him,

“ on my account, I could not survive it.

“ Convey this letter to him, to apprize

“ him at once of my danger and his own :

“ —accept my best thanks for past kind-

“ nefs, and tenderest wishes for your hap-

“ piness : — my heart tells me we shall

“ never meet again. I am, &c.

M. SOMMERVILE.”

Have I not reason, Dolly, to be afflicted beyond measure ! afflicted at occasioning such misery to so good a girl ! I can never support any misfortune that may befall her !

How has she been treated, persecuted, insulted ! What mean privileges do the mighty assume !

Lady Sarah, that could read the little tradeswoman in every action, after she had discovered her situation, must descend, though with ever so ill a grace.

We should not be premature in our judgment of strangers ; many that appear great, are not so in reality ; whilst others, like the diamond, wear their lustre beneath the surface.

I must find some safe conveyance for this letter : if it falls into wrong hands, poor Miss Sommerville — but she shall have no farther reason to hate your, &c.

S. KENNINGTON.



LETTER LVIII.

Mr. BRADSHAW to Mr. FLEETWOOD.

THE murder, my dear Harry, is, at length, out; and Patty Price no less a person than Sir Edward Sommerville's daughter, the heiress of seven thousand a year.

Who would have imagined that so strange a beast should be the father of such a girl! but many extraordinary things happen in life, or I should never have forgot Ned Smith; and his ill character.

I have heard Lady Sommerville was a very deserving woman, notwithstanding all the ill-treatment she met with; nor had Sir Edward's jealous fit any other foundation than his hopeful nephew's malice.

You see a knowledge of the world, or being born in an assembly-room, is not essential to politeness; for this young Lady's

dy's education, as well as her life, must have been a very confined one ; as was most strongly exemplified, indeed, in her odd choice of a milliner's shop for a hiding-place ! — Poor creature ! it was very shallow !

But she is in a dismal situation at present ; that great Smith, Bob's rival and her tormentor, has taken her prisoner, and presuming upon some little relationship, is for carrying her off *nolens volens*.

But the tar has happily blocked up the garrison, and will not abandon it but at the last extremity ; he is an honest fellow for sending us the enclosed, and shall not want the assistance he required.

MR. SHUGBURNH to MR. BRADSHAW.

SIR,

“ EVERY thing is cleared up respecting Patty's virtue ; but her calamities seem to increase.

“ She is fallen into dreadful hands ! but you must proceed cautiously : a good cause



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“ She is fallen into dreadful hands ! but
“ you must proceed cautiously : a good
“ cause

" cause requires only resolution and disre-
 " tion to defend and support it. I own it is
 " with some difficulty that even I myself
 " observe the moderation I recommend;
 " nor am I insensible of the warmth
 " of youth; but you would destroy what
 " you wish to save; a consideration that
 " must infallibly restrain you.
 " I have been able to obtain only piece-
 " meal intelligence. She is Sir Edward
 " Sommerville's daughter, a man who pos-
 " sesses neither honour nor principle, or
 " he would never have exposed so sweet a
 " child to the dangers and difficulties she
 " has encountered, merely to avoid an
 " unnatural union with that tall Smith;
 " Lord Kennington was pleased to chuse
 " for a husband for his niece, in prefer-
 " ence of your worthy friend.
 " He calls himself Sir Edward's ne-
 " phew; but I wish he is not a nearer
 " relation: and, in order to reconcile you
 " to the unjustifiable violence he would
 " practise, with regard to forcing Patty

“to England, tells you “Sir Edward
 “would rather he should enjoy his estate
 “than any other man; and, therefore,
 “proposes to give him his daughter.”

“Miss Sommerville was so terrified at
 “the apprehension of my withdrawing
 “my protection, from some provoking
 “epithets that villain has bestowed upon
 “me, of officious busy fellow, &c. that
 “she is unmindful of all reserve, and
 “publicly declares Smith is her brother.

“I have heard of many base practices
 “in life; but I rejoice that this is the
 “only horrid instance that ever reached
 “my knowledge of a father’s delivering up
 “his child to known incest. But, what-
 “ever may be the father’s inclinations,
 “it is evident that daring wretch will
 “not let her easily escape him.

“I am well-convinced that Lord Fin-
 “ley and you have a great affection for
 “her.—Old men are not so soon impo-
 “sed upon, as young ones imagine.—

“Every objection is now removed, and if

" her agreeable person and valuable un-
 " derstanding were sufficient to engage
 " your attachment, it will not be dissolv-
 " ed by the knowledge of her fortune.
 " It would be my advice, that the
 " most favoured gentleman should be-
 " come her legal protector; the authori-
 " ty, the very name of a husband, must be
 " capable of awing such a reptile into
 " proper behaviour.
 " You know what I have undertaken on
 " Miss Kennington's part, from a con-
 " viction that it is the only means of pre-
 " serving her from suffering. I would
 " gladly perform the same office by her
 " lovely friend, and at the same period
 " too, if all parties were agreeable. — She
 " is now a close prisoner at Mrs. True-
 " man's; I think it would be dangerous
 " to trust her with a wretch who has nei-
 " ther honour nor mercy, or I would
 " meet you at the tavern in the next
 " street to be more explicit. If you can
 " contrive to send Miss Kennington, she
 " will

will be a restraint upon him; and it is certain he cannot convey her violently from a house so well inhabited, without some noise.

Miss Kennington's appearance shall be the signal of your readiness, and I will join you immediately. I am, &c.

SHUGBURN.

What wretches! but I will be calm.—

a curious rogue, this same Smith! we have long been in his debt, according to Bob's account; nor shall he escape payment.

People are not so private in their iniquity as they imagine; for I, myself, have heard it whispered, that this fellow is a nearer relation of Sir Edward's, than he is disposed to claim.—Peace to such men, I say, if such men can have peace!

Could you but give a peep at us it would divert you. This letter has produced wonderful effects.—Bob's face is covered with smiles.—Finly smirks like your honour, at the corners of his mouth;

nor am I so narrow-souled as to envy either the one or the other.

But did you observe the sly Shugburgh: "You both love her; I would advise the "most favoured gentleman" — Ah! my friend, if you have had sufficient penetration to discover the former, you cannot be ignorant of the latter; — the poor Bradshaw! — But I have done with every folly!

I most certainly am a very clever fellow. — Patty low-born! how scouted the absurdity! and yet her father is as mean and unworthy a rascal as ever lived; — but, as we sung in our opera, "Gold "from *vice* can take out the sting."

How wise the good man is! send Miss Kennington to relieve me! — A very pretty substitute! What could Miss Kennington do, I trow, in opposition to such a Goliath? One of us, at least, shall remain in the shop, to support her, if required. What can he have further to say on this head? — Articles of capitulation from

the

the Lady. — Nay, then, happy Finly, the day is your own!

We have had our meeting, and have concluded on measures. Mr. Shugburgh is of opinion that Patty's apprehensions are too strong, with regard to Smith's desperate disposition; he insists upon it that cowards encounter only the weak; (and is not Smith's character sufficiently marked?) therefore, Lord Finly can have nothing to fear, if he can prevail upon her to accept of him.

— There was a time, Harry — but Finly and I are perfectly reconciled; nor will I give such an ugly likeness of human nature, — as not to be capable of participating my friend's joy; — and yet, how well I loved — my heart bears faithful testimony.

The wedding-day is to be the day of our departure; for, when once Miss Kennington absconds, we shall have no time to lose.

His whimsical Lordship conceives that Shugburgh and Smith (from an equivocal note the former sent him) are strolled into the country, and is hourly expecting their return. — But they never will return again, at least, upon their usual footing.

We shall be a fine party, Lord, and heyho, Harry! Lady.—Finly! Mr. and Mrs. Fleetwood, Mr. Shugburgh, Mr. Bradshaw, and Mrs. Trueman.

—Her decampment will, indeed be most necessary, as there would be no standing against Smith's fury, when we are once out of his reach. I am, &c.

F. BRADSHAW.

✻—✻—✻—✻—○—✻—✻—✻—✻

LETTER LIX.

Lord FINLY to Miss SOMMERVILE.

Dear MADAM,

I Hope you will do me the justice to believe, that the discovery of your family and consequence has no other value in

my

my sight, than as I flatter myself it will induce you to declare your intentions respecting me. How well I have loved you; what cruel constraint I have put upon my inclination, in forbearing personally to tell you so; and how ardently I have wished for the blessing of your hand, is not within the reach of language!

There is an enthusiasm in the soft friendship you have inspired me with, that experience alone can give us an idea of. I never remembered my advantages of birth or fortune, but when I was planning some little scheme of amusement for my Patty; nor felt their insufficiency and inconvenience but from the recollection that she despised them; and I found that splendor and happiness were in danger of being disunited by your over-valuation of the one, and wrong judgment of the other. I am, by no means, much read in romance; therefore, it is evident, however foreign to reason, that extravagant suggestions are the offspring of love. I have

not for many weeks beheld a cottage that has not furnished my imagination with a thousand pleasing flights! nor espied a silly sheep-fold, but all Arcadia was before me. I must acknowledge that when I considered you as merely indebted to nature for every grace, you was more the object of my admiration than under your present circumstances: the consciousness of fortune communicates either a true or false dignity to every heart! and the conduct you observed, sufficiently evinces your feelings.

But, notwithstanding my strong sensibility of your every perfection, I determined, in conformity to that humility that was your chosen characteristic, to suppress all profession of it, at least, until I had so far conciliated your esteem, that you would rather believe yourself the most lovely of your sex, than doubt my sincerity.

If you will please to recollect the first letter I presumed to send you, you must allow that I most religiously adhered to

my

my resolution; but I now consider myself as released from every self-injunction, and would most certainly suffer my pen to wanton in your praise, if I was not as apprehensive, at this period, of offending by my impertinence; as formerly by non-compliance with your modest humour.

When I read the flattering part of that letter, that gave me hope, only to increase my despair, and reflect how incapable you must be of deceiving, I am tempted to renounce every rising doubt. But Mr. Shug-burg's opinion will have more weight with you than ten thousand arguments.—He approves, he promotes, he advises our union:—nor will the voice of friendship be unattended to, however the pleadings of the lover might be disregarded.

On his interest, therefore, I rely: if the tenderest—fool that I am,—yet—I will subdue this prating propensity, and submit my cause to him and you. It was, indeed, from the abundance of my heart that I began to write; and it is that very

abundance

abundance that obliges me to desist;—
even the tongue of volubility cannot keep
pace with the fancy; much less the pen
with the overflowings of the soul!

I am, &c.

FINLY.



LETTER LX.

MISS KENNINGTON to MISS CAREY.

LITTLE did I conceive it possible,
my dear Dolly, to pass an unsatisfac-
tory afternoon with Miss Sommerville; but
I had the mortification, yesterday, to find
that all possibility is not comprehended in
my narrow conception.

I had a note conveyed into my dressing-
room by an unknown hand, intreating my
company at Mrs. Trueman's, another cir-
cumstance that I had no idea could hap-
pen to me,—being linked in intrigues:—
—but I have several upon my hands at
this very juncture; and, upon my word,

for

for a shy innocent girl, acquit myself to a miracle!

My Lord, and Lady Sarah were engaged at the Castle; (a place from whence I am excluded until I become Mrs. Smith; you may, therefore, judge of the violent desire I have to go) which favoured my wishes; and I ventured to set forth the instant their carriage drove from the door.

I found Patty's spirits but little improved;—Smith looked like himself, confident and audacious; and Mr. Shughurgh smiled alternately upon his little friends, as if to communicate a hope of deliverance to their hearts.

Mrs. Trueman, with a pale apprehensive countenance, appeared at tea.—

Smith viewed her contemptuously:—his soul is incapable of entering into the sentiment that goodness and greatness are the same thing.

“It is a most whimsical life, (said Mr. Shughurgh) that we lead at present, from want of confidence in each other:

“I may

"I may be wrong; but I think there is
 "much less hazard in trusting to a gene-
 "rous mind, than provoking it by ill treat-
 "ment.—I do not, however, expect every
 "one should be of my opinion, and, there-
 "fore, comply with the humour of my
 "company. Had Mr. Smith but for a mo-
 "ment relaxed his vigilance, I should not
 "have scrupled to have given him whole
 "hours with Miss Sommerville; but as he
 "has thought proper to consider me in a
 "suspicious light, I will take care to be
 "equally secure, and will embrace the op-
 "portunity of a third person's presence, to
 "absent myself for a short period. Miss
 "Kennington, (added he, nodding in
 "a friendly manner) you will let me
 "have the pleasure of finding you here
 "at my return."

I bowed,—Smith sneered—Patty and
 Mrs. Trueman sighed,—and Mr. Shug-
 burgh departed.

"What a rough positive hanks it is!"
 "(said Smith) Does he think I should"

"H.

"nicely eat"

“eat my fair cousin up, if the little
 “Miss Kennington did not stand in the
 “way? — O’ my conscience, such a cor-
 “morant might devour both the one and
 “the other with very little difficulty, and
 “the lean Mrs. Trueman into the bargain.”

He laughed at his own wit, and seemed
 to be secure of our private applause.

“Come, come ; (resumed he) you need
 “be under no restraint before me : — I
 “will be deaf, blind, any thing, every
 “thing to please the ladies, and obtain
 “your favour,” endeavouring to take
 Miss Sommerville’s hand.

“If obtaining my favour (replied she)
 “was in any degree the wish of your
 “heart, you would not pursue such odi-
 “ous measures. — A pretty device to en-
 “gage a woman’s favour by breaking her
 “heart!”

“Ah ! (cried he) Richard for that cou-
 “sin. — *They’ll bend, indeed ; but he must*
 “*strain that cracks them.* — Shakespeare
 “knew human, or rather female, nature,
 “to a nicety.”

“His

" His characters, sir, (said Miss Som-

" merville) were all strongly marked; —

" a villain, for example, — You was lament-

" ing last night that mine would be a his-

" tory without an historian; and I think

" you are a character without a poet to

" take you off, Shakespeare and Shake-

" speare's pen alone could do you justice."

" I will kiss you for that, (resumed

" he) my lovely satirical girl, though I

" should never kiss you more. — They

" might well say, (continued he) Re-

" venge is sweet, if every offender was to

" fare as yourself, and every offended

" person as daring as your Smith."

Poor Patty, I believe sorely repented

her biting retort.

" It is now my pretty little Miss Ken-

" nington's turn, (said he) to give me a

" handsome stroke. I challenge you, ma-

" dam, and am prepared to give myself

" satisfaction. Nay, my dear creatures,

" do not get into the dumps; you shall

" rather scold with impunity than be

" all so dully and silent.

“What a happy deliverance, (added he)

“—Ha, my little intended! — you may

“perceive I should not have been trifled

“with. — Meekness is the loveliest ingre-

“dient in the female composition, as cou-

“rage in the male; and as naturally pro-

“duces obedience, as the other commands

“respect. — What say you, Mrs. Sugar-

“cake?”

“I beg, sir, (said Mrs. Trueman) you

“will not terrify me! — I would not

“speak on any subject if I might be in-

“dulged. I—”

“Speak so little to the purpose, (said

“he) I suppose you would say. Why,

“really, Mrs. Trueman, if nature has

“deny’d you wit, she has bestowed an

“ample portion of judgment upon you,

“or you could never have made so judi-

“cious a discovery. — But, pray, (conti-

“nued he) tell me what reason there is

“for terror? do you apprehend any grie-

“vance from me? — Tell me but that,

“and I will allow you to shut your

“6 “mouth

"mouth to the end of our acquaintance."

"Dear sir, I beseech——"

"Don't provoke me, (said he sternly)

"with your senseless folly!——What! be-

"cause I play'd you a few unlucky tricks,

"when a school-boy; you would ruin

"me in the opinion of these ladies!——

"but rest content, or I will for ever ba-

"nish you my presence; which would

"be to punish you through my sweet

"cousin's heart; — or, perhaps, I shall

"serve you as I did your beloved kitten,

"crop you for a conjurer. Set me a bottle

"of your Irish claret on the table, and we

"will drown all animosity. The bell

"must be rung; (added he) must it?——

"No, pray, my dear madam, fetch it

"yourself, as you used to do out of your

"store-room for Jacky, the clerk's son."

What would I have given to be out

of the wretch's power —— Mr. Shug-

burgh! Mr. Shugburgh! thought I, why

do you not return!

Mrs. Trueman, arose with visible re-

luctance;

lucance: — but was afraid to in-
 him by an absolute refusal.

With solemn step and slow (cried he,
 mimicking her) “My dear madam, per-
 “mit me—” The wretch had the cruelty
 to give her an ugly whirl, and put her
 out of the room.

“Do not be alarmed ladies, (said he,
 “with odious confidence,) though ra-
 “ther boisterous in my behaviour to this
 “woman, I will be all gentleness to
 “you; nor will I once commit the
 “least outrage on this or this fair
 “hand,” attempting to seize a hand of
 each.

For my part, I was quite passive; he
 had terrified me into obedience! — but
 Patty’s spirits were roused, and she clapt
 her’s behind her.

“Behold the contrast! (cried he) my
 “intended that must lose me for ever,
 “is all submission! whilst the silly fool,
 “whose future days are all at my mercy,
 “is so impolitic as to be refractory.” — A

“prayer!—that’s my precious! (she did
 “lift up her eyes.) May Heaven defend
 “you from so severe a fate!”

Mrs. Trueman now returned with the
 claret.

“This Trueman is a good bustling
 “landlady; (said he) but (where are the
 “glasses) quite inoffensive, if wanting a
 “head could make her so.

—“Fetch them, pray! (affecting to
 “reel) you perverse hussy! fetch them
 “this instant!”

“Thus, ladies, you see (resumed he)
 “how I support my authority! That
 “dutchess has procured me many a beat-
 “ing for my barbarity! as mama and
 “her called it.

“Some water, Mr. Smith! (exclaim-
 “ed I.) Oh, Patty! Patty!” She was
 sinking to the ground at this wanton men-
 tion of her mother’s name.

“I am better, my dear!”

“Which of her dears did my Patty
 “mean (said the unfeeling wretch.) —

“Here

"Here is the officious toad again; I must invent some new errand to torment her."—But, to my inexpressible satisfaction, Mr. Shugburgh's return put a period to his wicked malice.

I stayed but one quarter of an hour longer, and hurried home, to give you the scene whilst the horror of it yet remained upon my mind.—Is there yet a means of happiness for your's, &c. S. KENNINGTON.



LETTER LXI.

From the Same to the Same.

BORN for persecution, no situation can exempt me from my fate.

Lord Kennington began with me this morning. — He did not like Smith and Shugburgh's great intimacy. — It was true, Shugburgh knew nothing of deceit, in general; but perhaps he might descend to practise it in Miss Sarah's service.

I would have had recourse to my usual refuge, as he calls it, — silence; but he sternly commanded me to look upon him, and tell him if there was not something in the wind.

I was so mortified and distressed I could scarce support myself. — He seized my shoulder. “Why does not the witch
 “answer me? (cried he, with an imperious voice) I will shake you to atoms
 “before I will suffer myself to be duped
 “by such clumsy artifice. Do you, or
 “do you not know where they are?”
 “I do, my Lord; (said I) and I do
 “not, my Lord.”
 “Miserable prevaricator! (exclaimed
 “he) how does terror and meanness banish every grace from your aspect! —
 “If you are not immediately disposed of,
 “your face will not be worth a farthing.
 “But tell me, thou paltry trifler, what
 “you do really know? — for, as to
 “what you are unacquainted with, is
 “not the object of my enquiry.”

“I was

"I was almost wicked enough to wish myself dumb. — "You had better not ask me, my Lord," said I.

"I am upon tenter-hooks; (cried he) what have you done, thou dishonour to my blood! thou" —

"I, I, my Lord, am not to blame! they are both with Patty."

"Patty! When? where? how?" demanded he, eagerly.

"Dear sir, do not look so angry! — "I really cannot tell you."

"I throw myself to a distance, (said he, bounding like an old baboon to the other side of the apartment) lest I should forget what is due to your sex, and absolutely beat you. But you may as well reveal the whole matter, with a good grace; for I positively will know it."

"You know already, sir."

He stamp'd with his sound foot; (for the gout has rendered one very infirm) then hobbling to the door, — "Who waits

“there?—I want Lady Sarah instantly.

“We will see, miss, who shall be conqueror.”

(Lady Sarah flew to papa's assistance.

—“We are harbouring the basest of creatures! (said his Lordship) she has acknowledged herself in league with our worst enemies; and, now, would meanly unsay all she has said, to screen them from my resentment!”

I shall be searched, thought I, and all will be discovered! — O, folly! O, imprudence! when shall I be able to renounce your bondage! but if ever I do approach either fire or candle more, I will most effectually destroy these evidences of my intriguing capacity. This apprehension operated so strongly upon me, that I resolved to sacrifice every other consideration, to deliver myself from such violence; I, therefore, acknowledged that I had been informed, they were altogether at the milliner's in Dartmouth street.

Never was countenance more defaced by passion

passion than his Lordship's.—“ We will
 “ detect them in their privacy, Lady Sa-
 “ rah ; (said he) and their betrayer shall
 “ accompany us. Timid fool,—on with
 “ your things ; we will lose no time :—
 “ fear has produced the very effect that a
 “ sense of duty—But away ! away !”

This was a happy respite : I hastened to my own apartment, and, in my confusion, not only put every letter I had received from the whole party into the fire, but likewise a long epistle I had wrote to Mr. Fleetwood ; and only waited an opportunity of conveying to him.

This business happily over, I began to reflect upon what I had done ; but a confidence in Mr. Shugburgh's steadiness to the cause he had espoused, and the certainty that undeprived of his favour, Miss Sommerville could not possibly be in a worse situation, I went down with a very good courage.

A hackney coach was at the door,—in my uncle pushed me—and we were soon hattered to Mrs. Trueman's. The

The first objects that met Lady Sarah's eyes, as we approached the shop-window, was Mr. Bradshaw and Fleetwood, — in waiting, I suppose, for an interview with our common friend.

Her features instantly swelled. — “Sure, fir, (said she) this is a common house of intrigue! — Miss Sarah must have improved her natural genius by her frequent visits to it; — but that was with your approbation.”

Lord Kennington's judgment called in question, — Death and destruction!

“I only wish, madam, (returned his Lordship pettishly) you would attend to the regulation of your own affairs, and not invade my province: at your time of day a breach of duty is utterly inexcusable.”

“Time of day! — my poor papa! (muttered she, as she got out of the coach) thinks of nothing but old age, except where he himself is concerned; — when the blooming Flora and all her

MISS SOMMERVILLE. 185

“ her youthful train are superannuated in
“ the comparison.”

The stopping of a coach at Mrs. Trueman's was not so extraordinary a circumstance, as to be useful.

“ Patty Price, Sweet-heart ! (said his
“ Lordship to the person who attended)
“ our business is with Patty Price.”

The girl had been only a few days in the house, and had actually never heard the name mentioned.

“ Miss Sommerville, Miss Patty Som-
“ merville (repeated she) to be sure, sir,
“ is here ; but I know of no other lady.”

“ Good !—(cried his Lordship) Lady
“ Sarah, did you observe the name is
“ changed already. — Shew us to her :
“ Sommerville and Price are one and the
“ same person.”

“ I will call Mrs. Trueman,” said the
girl. Lady Sarah turned round to overlook
the gentleman in her scornful manner ;
and I had really the courage to exchange
a tender glance with Mr. Fleetwood.

Mrs. Trueman was struck of a heap!
 “We are unexpected, Mrs. Trueman;
 “said my Lord; but we must see your
 “young lady; our business is urgent.”

She made no reply; but leading us to
 the dining-room, threw open the door:
 “Lady Sarah, Lord Kennington and
 “Miss Kennington!” said she aloud, to
 Miss Sommerville.—In we all rushed.

Patty’s countenance was really pitiable,
 —Smith’s meanly contemptible; — but
 Mr. Shugburgh knew neither to blush nor
 be confounded, the integrity of his own
 heart being a never-failing support; and
 he addressed Lord Kennington with the
 same composure, as if every step he had
 taken had had the sanction of his appro-
 bation.

“You see, my Lord, (said he) I am a
 “man of business; but, however ungen-
 “teel you may conceive my treatment of
 “you in the first instance, I am confident
 “I shall clear away every dissatisfaction,
 “by disclosing my motives that had” —

“Indeed,

“ Indeed, Shugburgh, (returned his
 “ Lordship) it ill becomes your age and
 “ understanding to turn knight-errant :
 “ —that lady has shone upon more occa-
 “ sions than one, already ; but I thought
 “ the farce had been over in this coun-
 “ try, at least. But she is come out, I
 “ find in a new character :—the humble
 “ name of Price converted into the noble-
 “ founding Sommerville. But give us her
 “ history, (continued he) as you received
 “ it from herself, and we will judge you
 “ favourably.” “ I hope, Mr. Smith,
 “ she does not claim you for a re-
 “ lation?”

“ Mr. Smith, (said Mr. Shugburgh)
 “ from you I received my information :
 “ — Is not that Lady Sir Edward Som-
 “ merville’s daughter ?”

“ Why, faith ! my Lord, (replied he)
 “ the fact is, as Mr. Shugburgh repre-
 “ sents it, and a most perverse undutiful
 “ child he has found her.”

Lord Kennington’s countenance, from
 being

being overspread with rage and satire, instantly became placid and servile.

“Then, I most sincerely beg her pardon, (said his Lordship, with an humble and beseeching voice) for all that is past! and hope she will believe, that had I known her family, I myself would have been the first to protect and defend her. I have some obligations to Sir Edward, and should have been glad of an opportunity of discharging part of them in her service. I knew he had a daughter; but little apprehended, as she never appeared in life, that she was either so old, or so accomplished as this young lady is. Can you, madam, forgive affronts that were not levelled at Miss Sommerville?”

“It was happy for me, my Lord, (said Patty, with her usual dignity) that indignence and friendliness did not concur with your endeavours to make me wretched!”

“Had Miss Sommerville been attacked in her own person, you would have been

“ a generous enemy ; and, if successful,
 “ had deserved your triumph : but a young
 “ creature so cruelly circumstanced as Pat-
 “ ty Price, virtuously and industriously dis-
 “ posed, to be driven to such extremities.
 “ Lord Kennington may, perhaps, have
 “ sufficient address to reconcile himself
 “ to his own conduct ; but must never
 “ expect to be considered as either a man
 “ of honour or humanity by Patty Som-
 “ merville. — As my father’s friend, I
 “ thank you for your professions of kind-
 “ ness ; and if you will take me out of
 “ that—Mr. Smith’s hands until I can
 “ be restored to his pleasure, you will
 “ really oblige me.”

“ Lady Sarah ! Niece !” (said the mor-
 “ tified Peer) “ do you make the offer of
 “ my house acceptable to Miss Sommer-
 “ vile ; I will be answerable for Sir Ed-
 “ ward’s approbation.” — “ A word with
 “ you, Mr. Smith !” They withdrew
 into the next apartment for a few mo-
 ments, and then rejoined us ; but, what-

ever was their conversation, Smith's haughty crest was totally subdued.

“And as for you, Shugburghy, (said his Lordship, taking up his speech at his return, exactly where he had broke off) you are a clever fellow! and I thus thank you (shaking him heartily by the hand) for every civility you have shewn my friend's child!”

Lady Sarah is a true woman of quality, and observed with all the ease and confidence imaginable, “That people could never be answerable for a conduct they were drawn into by false appearances.”

—Then, smoothing her features into complacency, and her language into politeness, assured Miss Sommerville, “It should be her study to wipe off every disagreeable remembrance, by future amity.”

Patty and I for the first time, indulged the affectionate impulse of our hearts (before so many spectators) by a friendly embrace.

Mrs.

Mrs. Trueman was unable to contain her surprize and joy, but wept as plentifully upon this happy occasion, as she had formerly done upon every unhappy one!

Smith made not the least opposition to Patty's removal, from being sensible, I suppose, that this tyranny would not avail him: the good understanding between my uncle and Sir Edward leaving not the least doubt of his approbation of whatever steps his Lordship proposed; though, you must know, that the Earl of Kennington is greatly under the hatches with that gentleman respecting money-affairs: his estate is, indeed, so intolerably dipt, as to be rather Sir Edward's property than his own—nevertheless it was apparent his quality gave him no inconsiderable consequence in Sir Edward's sight, as Smith was visibly chagrined, though afraid to acknowledge it.

“Let us all go together, (said his Lordship) it shall be an evening of jubilee;

“nor

“ nor shall one former friend be forgotten. Mrs. Trueman, will you take the trouble of making my compliments to the gentlemen below, and through their means to Lord Finly; and beg their company this evening at my house. — We will be universally reconciled.”

Thus has fortune, Dolly, made me ample amends for every unfavourable incident.

I began the relation as the fact began with me, to avoid anticipation on your part; — and if persecution was always productive of as happy consequences, who would not cheerfully submit its yoke? — nor do I doubt that every evil is as literally succeeded by its good as on the present occasion; but as moral and human advantages are widely different, the operation is not at all times conspicuous.

Patty still trembles with apprehension, from a knowledge of Smith's desperate spirit; but I look upon him as that sort of cur, that can loudly bark, but runs away when he should bite. Lord

Lord Finly, Bradshaw, and Fleetwood, were in College-green before us; so impatient were they, I suppose, for an explanation of so extraordinary a change,

Lady Sarah received her favourite very graciously; Fleetwood had the temerity to kiss my hand in the full face of the company; and Lord Finly had, for once, his Patty's ear free from all impertinent interruption.

Smith, like the old gentleman in Milton, *Sickened at the sight of so much happiness!* and, affecting sudden disorder, betook himself to his apartment.

Our hearts were inexpressibly animated, and Mr. Shugburgh, for the only time in his life, tho' a sailor, drank too freely of the *cup of joy*, which ever proves intoxicating. — I wish he may not suffer to morrow-morning for his unbounded satisfaction.

But are we not, Dolly, too happy for human beings: and from what cause is it derived? — Can my Lord have any meaning in introducing Fleetwood or — But

Patty is already asleep ; fatigue and unexpected felicity have overcome her sensibility. There she lies on my late miserable bed—that now possesses every essential to repose, and the thorny pillow is exchanged for the softest down.— One more letter from England, one more tender remembrance from my ever-honoured mother, and perfect happiness will, for once, (tho' perhaps for a moment only) be the portion of frail mortality. I am, &c.

S. KENNINGTON.

LETTER LXII.

MR. FLEETWOOD TO MISS KENNINGTON.

IT is, my dear Miss Kennington, as I flattered myself, when I received your uncle's invitation : I am accepted, my proposals approved, and his long-withheld and vainly-solicited consent, is now become a free-will offering.

Smith's circumstances are, indeed, very deplorable ;

deplorable; Sir Edward is dying, and has neither made nor retains the least capacity of making any provision for him; Miss Sommerville has a noble soul, nor will leave a favourite of her father's to desperation, whilst she enjoys her ample revenue: but to such a disposition as his, how galling obligation, where he expected to command and tyrannize at large!

My Lord has even gone so far as to fix a day for our union:—a distant one; but with such happy prospects I dare not be discontented. Our meetings may be frequent, our conversation unrestrained, and we may equally taste the sweets of life in our present as future condition.

Teach me, my beloved girl, to bear this most unexpected good fortune with some kind of moderation: so extraordinary a transition requires a stronger mind than I am master of to support it.

Finly's exultation and happiness is not inferior to my own!—His Patty is as propitious as his heart can wish! but has en-

joined him to conceal his transports and expectation before the gloomy Smith, as long, at least, as they can be concealed.

She ought to know his disposition best ; but, in my opinion, concessions feed, rather than subdue, a haughty spirit.

Poor Bradshaw ! it is some allay to my felicity to know him unhappy.—His conflicts are great ; but, I hope, not above his capacity to sustain : he distinguishes too justly to be offended either at Miss Sommerville's not approving him, or bestowing herself upon another ; but love, however rational at intervals, is not less extravagant when the fancy prevails.

She is the only woman that could have overcome his natural insensibility, and taught him to revere the little formidable deity. I know him well ; he has such generosity and greatness of soul that he will, in a short period, derive more satisfaction from the happiness of her he loves, though unconnected with his own, than to have beheld her coldly content with him for

her

her husband.—The services he has rendered her,—his warm participation in her joys and affections, bespeak him what he is, a generous lover, an unexceptionable friend, and a sort of philosopher.

I confess he has greatly the advantage of me ; for, however meek and resigned I may appear, I should have been outrageous had I lost the object of my tenderest affection ; nor could any motive, for a long, a very long season, have prevailed upon me to behold my rival with even a charitable eye.

Thus are we fitted to our fate :—Heaven, in compassion, to my infirmities, has spared me, where my strength was unequal, and will, I doubt not, increase and confirm the worthy resolutions and manly resignation it has bestowed upon Bradshaw.

I am, &c.

R. FLEETWOOD.



LETTER LXIII.

Mr. BRADSHAW to Mr. FLEETWOOD.

O For a carrier of the feathered race,
 to convey, with due expedition, the
 happy tidings I have to impart! but it can-
 not be; — nor will the lazy post alone,
 retard your knowledge of our present fe-
 licity; but winds and waves must prove
 propitious ere it can reach you.

What language will best suit my pur-
 pose? — The man of philosophy and re-
 flection would tell you, that one extreme
 is ever succeeded by another; and that,
 when the tide of affliction has run to its
 lowest ebb, the reflux, purged and purifi-
 ed from every evil, — must swell and roll
 in waves of joy!

The poet would observe, that the beau-
 tiful face of nature was no longer obscur-
 ed by the veil of calamity.

The divine, that Providence had not
 forgotten to be gracious! — The

The man of trade,--that perseverance and application had at length prevailed.

The man of the world, that fortune, weary of one continued round, had suddenly turned her wheel to persecute the opposite quarter.

And I, in my own proper person, Harry, declare that so great, so happy, and so unexpected-for a change, has taken place in our affairs; that to believe it the work of chance, would be the worst of infidelity; and, to consider it as a miracle, I fear the height of presumption: but, to say that the hand of Providence has been most wonderfully conspicuous, is surely speaking with all due propriety.

You must remember the situation in which my last letter left the injured Miss Sommerville. Smith resolved to torment and confine her,—and the worthy Shugburgh as resolute to soothe and deliver her.

You remember, likewise, our consultations:—Finly was to receive the loveliest hand on earth, as a saving remedy against

every threatening evil;—and Bob was to be made happy with Miss Kennington, from pretty much the same consideration.

And all this was to be accomplished clandestinely. Miss Sommerville by some lucky stroke released, the marriage performed, and a little multitude embarked without either noise or observation; how practicable, I leave to your own wise judgment.

Many methods had been proposed,—
canvass'd,—rejected. Mr. Shugburgh be-
gan almost to despair, and dispatched a
note, requiring our attendance at the mil-
liner's, that is, Bob and myself; for Fin-
ly was not to appear lest Smith should sus-
pect him to be his rival. — A most necessary
precaution; for he has a treacherous aspect.

You need not doubt our punctuality ;—but poor Shugburgh found it was much easier to make an appointment than keep it.—Smith was so insolent and ungovernable that he durst not leave him an instant.

Mrs. Trueman, who is a near relation of the Grievous's, dealt out a shower of tears,

tears, and gave her young lady for lost.—

“ He has the most vicious and barbarous
 “ disposition (said she) that ever was be-
 “ stowed on man; and so entirely posses-
 “ ses Sir Edward’s ear and heart, that he
 “ has the power of giving his own con-
 “ duct whatever representation he pleases.”

I had no other means of relieving my anxiety, than kicking my heels against the counter, and exclaiming against my stars, both of which I did very freely.—Mrs. Frueman had begun with great eloquence to persuade us to renounce every hope, when a coach, by drawing up to the door, obliged her to fly, to hide her blubbered eyes:—and who should it contain but the great Lord Kennington, Lady Sarah, and the sweet Miss Sarah!

Her Ladyship darted a furious look at me;—I met it with composure; and, notwithstanding the weight of my misfortunes, turned carelessly to Bob, and affected to whisper him.

They called about them with great au-
 thority,

thority, — sneered at, and so intimidated the poor Trueman, that she paraded before them, agreeable to their haughty commands, to Miss Sommerville's apartment.

Much vociferation was the consequence; — but it soon subsided, and accents of complacency and congratulation were distinguishable.

This was the most incomprehensible part to us lower mortals; but how was our wonder increased, when Mrs. Trueman, with tears of joy, delivered an invitation to us from Lord Kennington to spend the evening at his house?

“ It is all over; (cried she) and my
“ dear Miss Sommerville will be immediately conveyed to Lord Kennington's.
“ I heard, whilst I lived with her Ladyship, that there was some nobleman's
“ family that had borrowed considerable
“ sums of Sir Edward, and to whose
“ house he made frequent excursions;
“ but never knew, or, indeed, had the
“ curiosity to enquire his name. — Lord
“ Ken-

“Kennington, gentlemen, is the man;
 “but it is owing to a letter he yesterday
 “received from England that he is so
 “well-disposed towards my young lady:
 “—she had otherwise been dispatched
 “to her father, by that valliant Smith’s
 “hands, and most irreparably undone.—
 “I heard only half words between my
 “Lord and him as they retired from,
 “and returned to the dining-room; but
 “I do flatter myself the old fellow is dead
 “by this time.”

Thus she ran on, without stopping a
 moment, until I intreated her to consider
 it would be too much for her spirits; and
 that we must go to Finly.

That the transition might not over-
 power his tender nerves, we assumed the
 gloomiest aspects our circumstances would
 admit of; but were such ill dissemblers,—
 that he instantly challenged us for the
 news.—Well, I will not expose him: we
 have, it’s true, been rivals; but friendship
 is now alone predominant.

Impatient

Impatient for the unravelling so interesting a mystery, we lost no time in repairing to my Lord's ; insomuch that we arrived before the good company.

Mr. Shugburgh's felicity overflowed his ample heart ; he congratulated us, and himself a thousand times ; and, with the fond dotage of a parent, dwelt for ever on the praises, the perfections of his Patty.

Smith's was the only soul to whom joy was a stranger !—hostility and revenge brooded in his aspect ; but we shall deal with him ; nor shall his cloven paw interrupt our felicity.

“ A moment's conversation with you, “ Mr. Bradshaw,” said his Lordship, when the happy parade was, in some measure, over,—we went into his dressing-room ; and he opened as follows :

“ Perhaps, Mr. Bradshaw, I was a little “ abrupt in my late behaviour to you and “ your friend ; but I apprehended myself “ ill-treated, and therefore am excusable. “ Our Fleetwood is a very pretty fellow,

“ his

“ his brother a most generous one ; and,
 “ since he has set his heart upon my niece,
 “ if he can forgive my petulance, she is his.
 “ I own (continued he)—I had other in-
 “ tentions.—Sir Edward Sommerville’s al-
 “ liance would have been of infinite advan-
 “ tage to my family ; but the case is altered.
 “ Sir Edward is no more ; and Mr. Smith
 “ is unhappily deprived of both friend and
 “ fortune. These events will happen,
 “ Mr. Bradshaw : — Miss Sommerville
 “ will consider him, — and I must not
 “ forget my niece.—I know which way
 “ her inclinations lean, and Miss Patty
 “ is too great a friend to both Fleetwood
 “ and her not to wish their union. I
 “ think I have explained myself sufficient-
 “ ly ; (added he) and it now rests with
 “ you, either to accept or decline what
 “ you so lately solicited.”

I, you may be sure, made a very hand-
 some speech for us all ; and we rejoined
 the company.

Patty is not yet acquainted with her
 father’s

father's death; a stroke of the palsy deprived him of his senses a few days before his departure; therefore, nothing could be done for his darling wretch.—He is gone, Harry, and may his sins be forgiven!—but certainly his intentions respecting his daughter—were most heinous!

An heiress!—the poor, the persecuted—Patty a blooming heiress;—Well, Miss Sommerville, never was the object of my affection; but shall possess the first place in my esteem and friendship. What an extraordinary mind she is mistress of, undebased by adversity! and, I dare believe, unexalted by prosperity!—If Finly had never appeared,—idle, deceitful, presumptuous expectation, I never should have been her choice. My principles are too free, my conversation too trifling, and my understanding insufficient to recommend me, with such a nice and delicate distinguisher. — May happiness be her portion! and every trace of mortification and sorrow worn out for ever!

I am

I am intirely cured. — Lord Finly and Miss Sommerville were formed for each other, and Frank Bradshaw can be content with a bachelor's life.

— Adieu, Harry! you and I will compare notes over a not-uncheerful bottle. —

Some years have, indeed, passed since the shaft of disappointment was lodged in your heart; — but there it sticks as palpably as ever; for the hand of death struck it too deep for human art to extract.

I am, &c. BRADSHAW.

— — — — —

LETTER LXIV.

Lady SARAH KENNINGTON to Miss TURNER.

YOU will return, Miss Turner! you will return to Dublin, in a sort of evil hour! for the happiness we promised ourselves is not only irretrievably lost, but must be totally forgotten.

My father has most essentially served
your

your sister. Do not think me so mean as to reproach you with obligation; I only wish to induce you to be equally generous!

Some letters have passed between us that are not altogether fit for inspection!— Convey them to me by a safe hand, and I will release both Mrs. Bateman and yourself from every engagement.

I shall return to England very soon.— Some extraordinary things have happened;—but you know too much of life to be surprized, — and must be too tender of your own interest to make other people's affairs the subject of your conversation.

I wish you a good journey, and doubt not but I shall have reason to remain

Your friend, S. KENNINGTON.



LETTER LXV.

MISS TURNER TO MRS. BATEMAN

DO, my dear sister, but behold the haughty terms in which Lady Sarah

rah addresses me, after having been her confident, her friend, and darling companion. But it is well;—I shall not comply with such imperious commands.—If she is ashamed of her letters,—I blush for her conduct, and will expose both the one and the other in all companies where she is known.

I cannot imagine what can have occasioned this sudden change?—Do enquire:—I die with curiosity. Can Patty have proved any other than the little mean wretch she ever described her? or did she paint her in undue colours merely to gratify her own evil disposition, and is now apprehensive I should make it public.

Pray go to Lord Kennington's, and inform her, that I beg a key to her letter; for that it is utterly unintelligible.

I shall not be in Dublin so soon as I expected.—This aunt of mine is a most unreasonable monster to drag me from town under a promise of staying only a few

weeks,—and has taken up her residence for months.

I will assure Lady Sarah I am not to be treated so ungenteelly:—if her father has obliged you, you obliged him; and there the matter ought to have rested. Did you not entertain his little dirty idol, give him every opportunity of winning her to his purpose; and, if she was refractory, was you to be blamed? I can tell you, your letter cost me some tears: I would have perished before I would have submitted to do such despicable work. — Had he attempted an affair of gallantry with yourself, indeed, I should not have been surprised; but, at your age, and with your accomplishments, to be made a procuress, is odious!

However, as I said before, do not fail to inform Lady Sarah, that I am not the easy fool she takes me for; and that ten cold lines are insufficient to prevail upon me to forego the possession of such valuable papers.

Manage

Manage the affair with what address you please ; but my meaning is literally neither more nor less, than that I will teach her repentance, for conceiving that a paucity title is a sanction for such overbearing behaviour to a person as well born as herself, and your affectionate sister,

S. TURNER.



LETTER LXVI.

Mr. BRADSHAW to Mr. FLEETWOOD.

PASSING over Essex-bridge, my boy, yesterday-noon, who should accost me with the simper of civility, but the widow Bateman, who had so lately declined all connexion with me. It is not my disposition to shoo a fair lady ; I therefore affected an equal degree of cordiality, and attended her home.

“ You are a good creature, (said she)

“ and will not deny me one small request.

“ —Dine with me.”

"You must excuse me, I am engaged in the Green."

Female rhetoric is very powerful, and she renewed hers with such success, that, on condition I might take my leave as early as I pleased, I consented to obey her.

I was not at a loss to guess her motive. —Curiosity is a reigning principle.

"Any news, sir?" demanded she, significantly.) "The papers were never emptier," returned I, politically.

"But in the *beaux monde*?" resumed she.

"Faith, madam, (answered I coolly) you know better than I; for I have few engagements."

"You want to impose (said she, smiling) upon me! Lord Kennington sees much company, and—"

"Come, come, madam, (interrupting her) do not judge of others by yourself.

"You know there has been a breach amongst us; — nay, countenanced,

"abetted,

“ abetted, by Mrs. Bateman.—Was not
 “ that sweet brow totally contracted, and
 “ at the concert a fortnight ago, when I
 “ would have saluted you with my hat,
 “ how meaningly was that pretty head
 “ instantly averted? I know Lord Ken-
 “ nington was the cause of that effect, as
 “ well as the desire of enquiring after
 “ his family is the motive of your pre-
 “ sent behaviour.—Confess,—and I am
 “ yielding as air:—persist in your en-
 “ deavours to deceive me, and not one
 “ syllable shall pass these lips.”

“ What an oddity! (cried she) but I
 “ ought not to be surprised, that have been
 “ an eye-witness of so many of your
 “ whimsical fallies; and what shall I gain
 “ by acknowledging you are a conjurer,
 “ and have detected my purpose?”

“ Only a whole packet of information,
 “ my dear madam.—As how, that there
 “ is an entire revolution in that family:
 “ —Bob and Miss Kennington are to
 “ be married within this fortnight—the

“friendless Patty Price proves to be a
 “woman of very great fortune; — and
 “that Lord Kennington’s face is set
 “against every one that was even sus-
 “pected to be her enemy.”

She was utterly confounded.

“May I depend on what you now tell
 “me; — (demanded she with a tremu-
 “lous voice.—It would be cruel to trifle
 “with me on so important an occasion.”

“That is, Mrs. Bateman, that if I have
 “in any degree exaggerated matters, you
 “would incur the ridicule of your polite
 “friends for giving them a false relation.”

“Upon my honour, sir, you mistake
 “me; I am very unhappy! — (Her eyes
 “began to twinkle out a few tears.) —

“Lord Kennington has not used me
 “well; and, perhaps, may give an ill-
 “turn to the very offices he put me on
 “performing.”

“We ought to be very cautious, Mrs.

“Bateman, (said I, she deserved a se-
 “vere rap on the knuckles, Harry, for
 “being

“ being so busy) how we suffer ourselves to be drawn into impropriety; for, notwithstanding appearances, — there are so many turns in life, that we are frequently only acting against ourselves when we think we are differing another: besides, it is both mean and unjustifiable to become a tool to any one.”

She sobbed most audibly: — the tender-hearted sex are easily worked upon.

“ I would no more have taken an adverse step against the young Lady (cried she) than I would have flown, if Lord Kennington had not incited me to it: — yet, I suppose I shall be sacrificed on his part for a peace-offering.”

“ It is very vexatious, madam, (resumed I) to have any dealings with the great; — the earthen pot will ever be dashed in pieces. — Can I serve you?” — I was really sorry for her. A weeping fair-one is irresistible!

“ I think so, sir; — but I must first write to my sister.” There

There is much to be said, Harry, in this woman's favour. She is naturally of a complying temper; Lord Kennington perceived it, and, her misfortunes concurring, took a mean advantage of it. She most reluctantly entered into the basest part, at least, of his designs, as the fellow assured me, from whom I received an account of Patty's situation; but how could she avoid as she was then circumstanced?—

She did not chuse to be more communicative at this period; and the dinner, very opportunely, gave a turn to the conversation.

I did not observe who waited until, upon a demand of wine, I was surprised to see a shaking glass presented to me;—when, looking at the fellow's face, I, at once, increased his confusion, and informed myself of the cause.—

—It was my friend,—who so repeatedly drank my health at the tavern.

Mrs. Bateman, notwithstanding her own distress, was too quick-sighted not to perceive — (said she) — deceive

ceive something was the matter ; and as the guilty are ever suspicious, had, I suppose, a confused apprehension of his treachery :— she was, however, so prudent as to conceal it until he was withdrawn.

“ I am surrounded by deceit ; (said she)
 “ nor have you, sir, been free from some
 “ ungentle practices ; — to tamper with
 “ a servant was descending very low,
 “ indeed.”

“ Look ye, Mrs. Bateman, I scorn to
 “ palliate, your sudden coldness towards
 “ persons that had never offended you,
 “ and warm attachment to Kennington
 “ was sufficient to alarm a less susceptible
 “ mind than mine. I own it was not the
 “ noblest action of my life even to op-
 “ pose fraud by fraud ; — but if Mrs.
 “ Bateman could have avoided pursuing
 “ some cruel measures against an inno-
 “ cent and unoffending person, — Mr.
 “ Bradshaw had never attempted to pry
 “ into the secrets of her family.”

“ What delight you take in mortifying
 “ me ! — (said she.) This, however,

“ is not the point in question ; you was
 “ professing an inclination to serve me.”

“ Nor is that inclination (returned I)
 “ extinguished ; but you determined to
 “ write to your sister previous to every
 “ other step.”

“ True, sir ; but will you not fail to
 “ give me your company some future day ?”

Thus it must ever happen with persons
 who, neglectful of their interest, fall into
 misfortunes ; — seek to repair those mis-
 fortunes by crimes ; — and to justify those
 crimes, by accusing their employer. —
 What despicable characters there are in life !

As to our own affairs, they are in a very
 orderly way. — Next Thursday is ap-
 pointed for Bob's wedding-day, for Mr.
 Shugburgh is of opinion, that it is best to
 strike whilst the iron is hot ; nor, by
 throwing in the mortifying account of
 Mrs. Kennington's death, retard an event
 that has been so long intended to take
 place ; and, if delayed, would yet be with-
 in the reach of some evil accident.

I am, &c.

BRADSHAW.



LETTER LXVII.

Miss KENNINGTON to Miss CAREY.

I Cannot be perfectly contented, my dear Dolly, unless I myself receive a letter from my mother. Mr. Shugburgh tells me he will give me a satisfactory account of her. I have great faith in all he says; but I own I cannot suppress all apprehension. Yet, perhaps, she may have complimented him so much upon the friendly part he has acted towards me,—that out of modesty he will not let me see her epistle. I must persuade myself, that is the case, or I should blast the happiness of a most worthy heart!

Miss Sommerville was a good deal shocked at the news of her father's death, notwithstanding all his cruelty. She has had a letter from her friend Miss Stainby, informing her of the whole affair.

It seems Sir Edward was very low-spirited

spirited for several days before his paralytic complaint seized him, sent for Mr. Stainsby, and had much conversation with him.

He mentioned his Lady rather tenderly, and said, "He believed she had been injured in his good opinion."

Mr. Stainsby, who had a great respect for Lady Sommerville's memory, told him, "He was sorry he could ever have suffered himself to be so grossly imposed upon, as even to entertain a shadow of suspicion of such a woman."

"You see, (said Sir Edward,) how unnatural and rebellious the girl has acted, to withdraw herself from my knowledge; nor had she ever that affection for me, that is usual in so near a relation."

"You will excuse me, sir, (returned Mr. Stainsby) since you yourself have introduced the subject, if I take the liberty of observing, that there was something equally wrong in your behaviour.--You

"made

“made a kind of prisoner of your child,
 “obliged her to hide herself when you
 “had any company at your house; and,
 “but for her intimacy with my daughter,
 “her time must have hung very
 “heavy upon her hands.”

“I had my reasons, sir; (said Sir Edward, hastily) girls of fortune are every
 “one’s game;—and I was not disposed
 “to bestow my estate, but upon a scoundrel
 “of my own chusing.”

“Then you had made choice of a
 “husband for the young lady?”—
 “You know it, Mr. Stainby, —and
 “have opened your mouth pretty largely
 “against my intentions;—but you may
 “be assured that if I had not had very substantial
 “proofs of her illegitimacy, (tho’
 “insufficient to destroy her claim to my
 “estate) I should not have thought of
 “such a thing;—but if it was to be enjoyed
 “by a spurious heir,—why not
 “one that I had some interest in?—

“Ned, I am sure, is my own; and if his
 “mother

“mother had lived, I should have escaped
“my present disgrace and affliction !”

“O, sir, (said Mr. Stainsby) this is a
“lamentable tale ! — No conduct on
“earth was freer from reproach than La-
“dy Sommerville’s : — she never absent-
“ed herself from her family ; — never vi-
“sited but when you was with her ; nor
“had one connexion that could reflect
“the minutest dishonour on her.”

“Take care, Mr. Stainsby, your zeal
“does not render you a suspected person ;
“not as principal, but an agent in the
“business. — Your late curate, Slingsby,
“was an insinuating rascal, and Lady
“Sommerville evidently fond of his com-
“pany and conversation.”

“It is most cruel, sir, (said Mr. Stains-
“by) to accuse the dead : this is a piece
“of scandal that was never even broach-
“ed during the life of either party ; nor,
“I dare believe, never would, but for
“the basest of purposes.”

“Sir, (cried Sir Edward, warmly) you
“are

“are an impertinent fellow!—How dare
 “you take such liberties with my family?”

“If, (said Mr. Stainby) to defend the
 “innocently-asperfed is to be imperti-
 “nent, it is an impertinence that suits
 “my profession and character. I have fre-
 “quently wished to talk with you; upon
 “this subject; but would not have led to
 “it myself;—for, believe me, sir, you
 “are made very free with by your neigh-
 “bours, whether with or without your
 “knowledge I cannot determine;—
 “and Miss Sommerville’s flight imputed
 “to a horrid cause.”

“It is very necessary, to be sure, (said
 “Sir Edward) that a man of my fortune,
 “should invite every cobbler in his parish,
 “to sit in judgment upon his actions;—
 “that I have condescended to account
 “for them to you, has been rather the ef-
 “fect of accident than premeditation;
 “for I cannot see how you can have
 “any thing to do with it.”

“Excuse me, Sir Edward; but a man
 “ of

“ of my function must not permit offences against law and nature to be committed within his knowledge unnoticed ; nor should I have continued much longer silent, if the young lady had not removed herself.”

Sir Edward was incensed : “ She must have had some assistant ; (exclaimed he) and I shall henceforth consider you as a busy troublesome fellow ; — and beg I may see no more of you.”

Mr. Stainsby arose, and having gently remonstrated, that it was the duty of a clergyman, to reprove sin wheresoever he found it, — he took his leave ; telling Sir Edward, “ That he should be always ready to attend him when required ; but would not again be officiously intrusive.”

He had not been many hours at home before he received a second message from Sir Edward.

“ You have disturbed me greatly, (said he) by the opinion I find you entertain
“ of

“ of my principles.—What a monster to
 “ unite my own children !—I tell you,
 “ I’ll hear no more of it.”

“ It is so poor a piece of sophistry, fir,
 “ (returned Mr. Stainsby) that you are
 “ now preaching, that it will neither se-
 “ cure your conscience nor reputation
 “ from being called in question. If Lady
 “ Sommerville had not both lived and di-
 “ ed in the parish, indeed, such a story
 “ might have obtained credit. You your-
 “ self have not even the voice of fame to
 “ mislead you ;—tho’, in that case, it is
 “ running a shocking risk, to rely upon
 “ common report, where the strongest evi-
 “ dence would be almost insufficient.”

Thus the time was past ; — now seek-
 ing to justify his intentions ; and now
 condemning the severity of those very cen-
 sures he invited.

Mr. Stainsby had left him only a few
 moments the third morning, and was be-
 ginning to hope that he should not be un-
 successful in his labours to correct his pa-

tron's heart, when he was hastily recalled, and found him in a dreadful state; helpless as infancy, and with intellects equally limited.

He knew not where to find Smith, and was unwilling to expose the step Miss Sommerville had taken, by a public enquiry after her; for Miss Stainby happened to be absent upon a visit at that juncture, and she had never intimated the least knowledge of Miss Sommerville's affairs to her father, as she was apprehensive his strict principles would ruin all she had accomplished.

In this dilemma he determined to write to Lord Kennington, as the most interested person;—but, whilst he debated,—Sir Edward expired: therefore, that very letter that began with an account of his illness, concluded with his death; so soon was the one succeeded by the other.

Miss Somerville has had the generosity, in consideration of Smith's education, hopes, and her father's affection for him,

to

to continue an estate of five hundred a year in his possession, which Sir Edward had for some time allowed him by way of pocket-money. He had been rambling in quest of Patty, when some of his idle companions engaged him in a frolic to Dublin; a circumstance that never reached Sir Edward's knowledge; for all the letters he produced of his approbation of his match with Miss Kennington, terms of settlement, &c. were of his own writing; for he knew well to counterfeit that gentleman's hand.

He has entered into a bond for his good behaviour; the penalty of which is no less than the forfeiture of his five hundred a year, if he interferes with, or molests Miss Sommerville. How well he may perform his engagement is impossible to judge.

I would delay my approaching change of condition, until decency would permit Patty to change her's also; but am over-ruled by the higher powers. Mr. Shugburgh, in particular, most strenuously op-

poses me, and you know what implicit obedience I have vowed to him. We shall not return to England until the breaking up of the parliament, when Lord and Lady Finly will accompany us.

I, at present, enjoy the highest satisfaction of love and friendship. — Patty's heart is most amiably formed for the one, and the gentle Fleetwood's for the other; —and I am almost afraid, from the impossibility of augmenting them, that they must necessarily decline. Every thing is in a state of fluctuation; the eminence is no sooner attained than we begin to descend: —but I neither possess nor wish for the gift of prophecy: I will, therefore, rejoice in that felicity that is dealt out to me, and leave futurity to the direction of that Providence that has always wrought wonderfully for me. Adieu: —this is the last letter, unless some evil accident intervenes, you will ever receive from

S. KENNINGTON.



LETTER LXVIII.

Mr. BRADSHAW to Mr. FLEETWOOD.

TO-morrow, Harry, is the day that is to give you a new relation, and dignify Bobby with the title of Husband.

Great preparations are making at my Lord's : he will have it splendid, which I think is rather unbecoming the humility of the bride and bridegroom's inclination.

We are to have a ball in high taste ; not one of your little made-up affairs I used to describe to you : — yet will the partners be nearly the same. — Mr. Bradshaw, Lady Sarah, — Mr. Shugburgh ; — but he will not dance, it seems, upon the occasion, except a minuet with the bride. Lord Finly, Miss Sommerville, — Bobby Fleetwood, and, contrary to all rule, I believe, (but he pouted horribly when it was otherwise proposed) and the lovely Mrs. Fleetwood are again to join hands. — I

shall not sleep lest some disaster should interrupt our promised felicity.

Miss Sommerville's vivacity is greatly improved; but her other perfections, from being incapable of addition, remain exactly as on our first acquaintance.

She rallied me rather unmercifully; but with such sweetness and pleasantry upon the services I intended her, that I could not be dissatisfied; yet I felt very small, and, I doubt not appeared so. She is, however, convinced of my integrity, and that whatever advantages I might have taken of her supposed fallen state, I abhorred seduction, and loved her more on believing her innocent, than if I had known her for an empress. She really is such a woman in person, understanding, behaviour, and temper, as I never before met with, and I shall have great pleasure in introducing her to your acquaintance.

Finly is a worthy fellow, and well deserves her. His disposition and sentiments are so intirely correspondent with hers,
that

that if ever a married life was a blessed one, theirs cannot fail of being so !

* * * * *

Just returned from church. — This morn has been propitious ! and may every succeeding one bring increase of happiness !

Bob assumes a very consequential air ; but no wonder : this acquisition is a most desirable one, as you yourself will gladly acknowledge before many months have elapsed.

I congratulate you on this lovely addition to your family, and take some little merit to myself for having promoted it.

My Lord and Mr. Shugburgh had a kind of friendly contest, respecting the propriety of their pretensions to disposing of the lady. — My Lord insisted upon it, that the office of father more essentially appertained to him, from having supplied that character to his niece on her deprivation of her actual parent. Mr. Shugburgh urged that friendship's claim was

superior to every other. — A claim that was justified by the whole company.

But here is Bob with an inquisitive eye, endeavouring to run over what I have wrote — Your pardon, sir, the step you have this morning taken utterly disqualifies you for a bachelor's confidant. — We will fold up the paper, if you please, and have a little conversation. — The proposal does not suit you : ——— your moments are too precious : ——— get you gone, then, for a self-sufficient puppy ! the day will come when I shall be restored to my share of consideration ; — but a new-married man, and a disconsolate lover, are the most insufferable of mortals. I have lived to see a happy termination of this amour, and hope this poor Miss Somerville's will end as satisfactorily ; but I own I myself begin to fear for her.

Smith promised to take himself off immediately, on Patty's generosity ; but I am informed he still lurks about incog.

— It

—It has an ugly appearance, and we must be much upon our guard.

I think it is paying a most ridiculous compliment to the dead, to neglect the securing the felicity of the living on their account, as I shall endeavour to convince the honest Shugburgh, whom, I am amazed, did not violently oppose the unexpected delay ; but his heart is absorbed by joy, and he has no attention for futurity.

I wonder I have not yet been pursued with a hue-and-cry ; for I shall retain so much consequence with my company as to be spared as little as possible.

I am, &c. BRADSHAW.



LETTER LXIX.

Mrs. FLEETWOOD to Miss CAREY.

THERE is no end, my dear Dolly,
to the congratulations and entertainments

tainments I am surrounded with.—From being the veriest insignificant in nature, I am become of the greatest consequence. No party is complete without Mrs. Fleetwood; no judgment on any occasion passed, but she is consulted. That ever such happiness should be reserved for so trifling an individual!

But do not mistake me; it is not the distinction paid me, it is not the flattering my vanity or ambition, that constitutes any part of my felicity.—No, my friend, vanity and ambition have very little to do with the delights of friendship and the union of hearts.

Mr. Bradshaw has been at work with our common friend:—he thinks it highly necessary that Lord Finly should assume the right of protecting Miss Somervile, in order to prevent her being injured or insulted; —and he does apprehend some great enormity is hatching against her.

Smith has been seen several times with
a plot-

a plotting insolent aspect. This is a country where many daring designs have been carried into execution; but I will still hope the best. I am certain she has too much resolution to be intimidated into any schemes. He may plan; and, for the rest, vigilance must be our card.

Mr. Shugburgh has made me a handsome present, and assures me that I shall find myself particularly mentioned in his will.—Long, very long may that period be distant! for it is not in the power of friendship to bestow a choicer blessing upon me. I beg you will not, in the overflowings of your partiality, make too favourable mention of me to your Fleetwood; for, upon my word, I shall not answer his expectations.

Fatigue and vexation have been of no advantage to my complexion; and you well know that is the most tolerable possession I can boast.

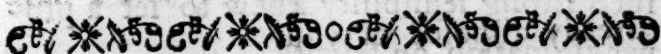
You will, likewise, please not to suffer your affections to be engaged by him,

or any other person ; for Patty and I have already disposed of you.

I would have wrote you a very different letter, as to length, if I might have been permitted to follow my own inclinations ; — but you have too much good sense to conceive my friendship is in any degree diminished, from my being carried a little out of my usual course by the present rapidity of the stream ; and be assured, the moment I have leisure to recollect myself, I will make you ample amends.

Besides, child, you must make some allowances for my impatience, for subscribing a name that has ever been so dear to me.—It seems as if, by placing the beloved characters before your eyes, I should confirm my claim to them ; but, be it as it may, depend upon it that Sarah Kennington was neither a more dutiful daughter or more affectionate friend than will be found in

S. FLEETWOOD.



LETTER LXX.

MISS SOMMERVILE TO MISS CAREY.

DEAR MADAM,

I Take this opportunity to introduce myself to your acquaintance and future correspondence. Miss Kennington has long amused you with my adventures :—many and various have been the turns I have experienced.

Mr. Shugburgh never performed any office with so good a grace as bestowing your lovely friend upon the worthy Fleetwood ; nor did Fleetwood ever make a better figure than in the instant of receiving her. His countenance is sweetly turned, manly, majestic ; but generally overspread with seriousness, if not absolute dejection.

The change was delightful :—his eye, his cheek denoted the satisfaction of his soul, and abundantly convinced us, that

such strong sensibility knew to set a proper estimation on felicity.

I beg, Miss Dolly, you will be pleased to consider me as an old acquaintance ; — your taste, your sentiments, nay, your very person is familiar to my imagination : — then, do not throw me to a distance, by idle ceremonies. — My heart is perfectly yours ; therefore, treat it accordingly.

I am the worst in the world for describing pretty scenes by my pen ; but in the way of conversation no one can exceed me. — If then you will be content for the present, with being barely told, — that we went to church, — performed the business, — and returned well satisfied, — you may depend upon hearing every particular when we meet ; — and in such happy language, that you shall imagine you behold the whole transaction. — You are a good tractable girl, — and shall find your account in it.

By

By the way, Miss Dolly, I have a quere for your most private ear: Bradshaw is a lively, entertaining, and valuable fellow.—Which in your opinion is most eligible,—to lead a solitary unsatisfactory life;—or reward all the services he has rendered your friends with your fair hand.

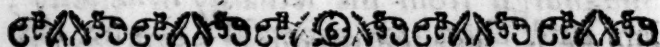
Take the matter into consideration, and let me know your undisguised sentiments.—I never yet attempted to promote the matrimonial trade; but I think it is a piece of justice you have both an undeniable claim to.

Mrs. Bride is peeping over my shoulder, and abets my proposal:—he has many excellent qualities,—a little too volatile, I grant you; but we engage to reform him agreeable to your taste.

Write to us soon, accept our joint wishes for your happiness, and believe me to be most sincerely yours,

M. SOMMERVILLE.

P. S. Mr. Shugburgh undertakes to say proper things for us to Mrs. Kennington;—therefore, not a word of this letter.—She is so far past the romantic age, that she must have forgot what inexpressible pleasure there is in folly.—Wisdom is a most valuable attainment;—but folly, innocent delightful folly, best suits a youthful heart: adieu.—You will understand the meaning of this postscript.—Your friend has left me; but I have not time to explain myself.—Poor Mrs. Kennington was not to see this happy day!



LETTER LXXI.

Mr. BRADSHAW to Mr. FLEETWOOD.

THE whole *great* day, my good Harry, passed away agreeably; elegance and propriety governed the feast; and pleasure enlightened every countenance.

Lady

Lady Sarah, indeed, felt several uneasy pangs. — Envy is an infernal passion — consequently must torment the breast it inhabits.

It is pity that I am incapable of entering into the particulars of this evening in my peculiar manner, as you would really find it very entertaining. Finly and I changed partners several times ; — those periods were delightful ; — but business of less softness must employ my pen. — That Smith ! but I hope I have most effectually defeated his purposes.

I have carried my point, and awakened Shugburgh from his lethargy of felicity ; and he is, beyond measure, convinced of the folly of postponing Finly's nuptials : therefore all hands will be set to work to promote its immediate completion.

I have seen Mrs. Bateman, and, agreeable to my promise, accommodated matters between her and Lord Kennington's family : if that can be called an accommodation, that destroys the connexions of parties for ever.

She intrusted me with the conveyance of a whole packet of letters, most carefully sealed, to Lady Sarah, and acknowledged they had passed between her sister and that Lady, respecting Miss Sommerville;—that they were most haughtily demanded by Lady Sarah, and as reluctantly delivered up by Miss Turner; nevertheless, she engaged in her sister's name, as well as in her own, to pass an act of oblivion on all that had happened, beginning at the Holyhead adventure, and terminating with the discovery of Patty's consequence:—so, adieu, Harry, to all mention of the widow Bateman and Miss Turner, from this time forth.

Lady Sarah is really a very decent-behaved person, when not immediately under the dominion of pride and malice;—and perfect harmony reigns amongst us.

Lord Kennington's house is crowded;—— for, as he has altered his mind, with respect to his continuance in this country, and proposes returning to Eng-
land

land in a short time after Finly's marriage, we have all had the modesty to take up our residence under his roof.

Lady Sarah, from a nice punctilio, removed the busy Mrs. Brett from her station, on the first discovery of Miss Sommerville's real character; but has provided her another place, to the satisfaction of all parties.

For, notwithstanding, she had rather rendered herself an object of disgust, if we could pardon her lady's mistake, we might certainly overlook the error she was drawn into: to please the *great*; and, at the same time, obtain a handsome reward, is no inconsiderable temptation:—besides, Harry, had we not all something to be forgiven for?

All preparation for Finly's wedding is to be conducted as privately as possible; but the publication of it is to reach every corner of the three kingdoms.

Sir Edward has been dead only one month; therefore, revelling would be no

less inconsistent than impolitic. We, indeed, strained a point on Mrs. Fleetwood's account, considering every circumstance; but my Lord is very positive and absurd in all his resolutions.

Monday next is fixed for the happiest day of Finly's life. — Why was I not born for the same felicity; yet rendered so susceptible of its inestimable value!

— But, away, reflection! — the giddy ladies insist upon my assuming the soft bondage, so much approved by themselves, and have already marked me down a fair partner. I can believe she is very deserving, by the place she holds in Mrs. Fleetwood's affections and your approbation! — but, alas! I am not now the man I have been! — the charm of my vivacity is in great measure broken! — my philosophy destroyed, and my self-complacence lost for ever.

I make no protestations, though — time may work wonders! and the heart that was unsuccessful in its first attachment,
may,

may, so far at least, recover itself as to enter into a very tolerable friendship with an agreeable female; — but no violence must be expected.

I am convinced, that unless I do form some happy connexion, I shall be liable to the wanderings of imagination and the stings of disappointment! — The wife of my friend will be too lovely for my repose! — and the bare, — nay, chimerical idea that she might have been won by due merit, wherever she had found it, blast my best enjoyment!

I beg your Honour will not be too frequent in your visits to Miss Dolly: — the man does not live that can call himself secure. — I confess, a strong prepossession in favour of another is the most efficacious antidote you can be possessed of; but so many years have passed since the grave swallowed up your beloved, — and you have so long accustomed yourself to make familiar mention of your misfortunes, that it is not impossible but she

might steal upon your heart. Never frown at the suggestion :—I will maintain the possibility ; or, tell me whence this levity, where the stroke has been so recent ? Our constitutions ! — a fiddle-stick !—But it is not my interest to convince you, and I will forbear.

Next Monday ! — O Finly !—Harry, applaud and pity the feelings of poor

BRADSHAW.



LETTER LXXII.

Mrs. FLEETWOOD to Miss CAREY.

THE so much dreaded evil has overtaken us !—Overtaken us, my Dolly, at a period when we least expected. What has mortality to boast,—when, but this hour we attain the summit of happiness — and the next are precipitated into the gloomy valley of affliction !

Miss Sommerville is carried off ; and my

my Fleetwood, Mr. Shugburgh, Lord Finly, and Mr. Bradshaw are gone in quest of her.

We went to church all together this morning : Lord Kennington's coach and Lord Finly's chariot were our conveyances. The gentlemen had agreed to go to the Castle, and Lady Sarah would walk, to make a morning visit.

Lord Finly put us into the chariot, pressed the hand he severally assisted, from love and friendship ; but little imagined it was the last time he should behold us with satisfaction.

We had only got one street from the church, before we were alarmed by a concourse of rabble ; it was only a battle, the people informed us, and we might pass safely on. — How chance and design united to effect our destruction !

We had proceeded but a few paces when something was thrown at the horses heads ; — they began to plunge dreadfully, and I cried out for assistance. Miss Som-

mervile appeared uncommonly composed, and endeavoured to persuade me there was no danger ; but she had scarcely finished the sentence before we received the terrible shock of being thrown over.

I am amazed the mischief ended there : — many persons were officious to assist us : — two chairs instantly presented themselves ; and as we were neither of us hurt, and impatient to get home, we most inconsiderately embraced the means accident seemed to furnish us with, of being conveyed thither.

I, indeed, arrived safe ; but Miss Sommerville has not since been heard of. I sent immediately for the gentlemen, threw them into the greatest grief and consternation ; and away they all flew, heaven only knows where, upon a melancholy, and, I am apprehensive, fruitless pursuit.

My heart is torn to pieces. — Miss Sommerville, so dear to me ! — Lord Finly so dear to my husband, is it possible we can ever taste felicity again !

Smith's wretches have certainly lain in wait for us, wherever we have gone; and perceiving how indifferently we were this morning guarded, availed themselves of our unfortunate neglect.

I never expect to see her more; he will undoubtedly remove her far from their reach or discovery, and — but here is Lady Sarah; — I cannot bear the sight of her; not that I suspect her upon this occasion; but she has given many proofs of most astonishing ill-nature.

* * * * *

Twelve o'clock.

Not a soul returned; nor, I fear, the least intelligence obtained. — What a night is this! — and Lady Sarah, how unfit for the tender office of consolation! As for my Lord, he has shut himself up ever since the accident. I shall walk my apartment, — tell the tedious hours, — and listen to every sound with anxious hope! — That ever I was born! it was by my means that Smith discovered — but I

shall

shall pay the price.—Good night ! good night ! I grieve, for your part, in the general affliction.

* * * * *

Monday-morn.

Oh, Dolly ! I die with apprehension ! —They are returned without her ;—but some fatal catastrophe, I am confident, has been the consequence. My Fleetwood sighs as if—Tell me not of comfort !—I never shall know it more ! —Those looks,—that deep affliction informs me I am undone !

“ Does Patty live ? have you seen or “ heard any thing of her ? ” —He cannot answer ; and my poor heart—Adieu.

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LETTER LXXIII.

Mr. BRADSHAW to Mr. FLEETWOOD.

HARRY ! my ever-valuable Harry ! do not seek to know the calamity I can never communicate. Yet I will tell you

—Oh !

—Oh! they have murdered the fairest! —
 Hush! Finly raves; —but he is delivered
 from the anguish I experience. — The
 brain once destroyed, can thought — I
 hear him again: on my bosom he shall
 recline. — Yes, Finly, once your rival,
 now your everlasting friend and compa-
 nion of your sufferings! — I must away:
 the sad story will reach you, alas! too
 soon. — Let the public tell it; — the
 public alone can be equal to the re-
 lation.

* * * * *

Will not Heaven relieve this bursting
 heart! — There he lies a horrid spectacle,
 quite exhausted! — and to what purpose
 his return of strength, —but to be ex-
 pended in the same dreadful manner.
 The human frame is not so weak as ge-
 nerally reputed, —or such conflicts could
 never have been repeated.

I will get Shugburgh to write: —he,
 though not the least afflicted, is the most
 collected of us all. — Scenes of horror
 are

are not new to him ; — and though he
ever feels, — he feels with due re-
signation.

BRADSHAW.



LETTER LXXIV.

Mr. SHUGBURGH to Mr. FLEETWOOD.

S I R,

I Am but little equal to my present undertaking ; but Mr. Bradshaw's strong solicitations have subdued me, and I will endeavour to explain the dreadful hints he has thrown out.

You are no stranger to every proceeding :—I need not then tell you how happily I expected to have been this day employed ; —but the work of Providence must be better than mine ; and however hard the conviction, it must at length prevail.

Mrs. Fleetwood has told her friend the first steps of this calamity; to her letter, therefore,

therefore, I refer you — Recollection would be of no use to me upon this occasion.

I think she finishes at our being returned ; — but she did not see us all : nor is she capable of dispatching the little she did know : that too lies at my door.

We did, indeed return. — I must break off a moment ; — the remembrance is too much for me.

After great difficulty and labour, we traced out the chairmen that carried the sweet girl ; — they were drunk, — and barely capable of giving us some imperfect information,

— They had forced her into a chaise, — and she was gone for Kilkenny.

We instantly took post-horses ; — three servants and ourselves, with arms, was no inconsiderable body. They had changed horses once, — had met with an accident to retard their expedition ; but had much the start of us.

However,

However, we continued our chase;—and, between three and four in the morning perceived, by the help of the moon, a carriage flying at a distance.

Lord Finly and Mr. Bradshaw pushed forwards;—a fellow fired at them, but happily missed them, and was secured.

We now all of us surrounded the chaise;—Patty held out her dear hands in the bitterness of distress; (Smith was evidently drawing something from the front pocket) and whilst we hesitated, lest her life should be endangered,—shot he dead before us.

Can you now not conceive the effect so cruel a disaster must have upon our hearts;—for to describe even my own feelings, is beyond my best abilities!

Lord Finly was the only person that did not utter suitable exclamations!—I apprehended the fatal consequence.

My Lord, (said I) you had better alight.

“ I am

“ I am well, fir ; (returned he, with
 “ miserable wildness) — satisfied, fir ; —
 “ perfectly satisfied. — It does not hurt
 “ me : — I do not bleed : — it was not
 “ me he wounded.” — “ What do you
 “ mean, fir, by your question ? — Did
 “ I complain ?”

Thus he run on, until the violence of his disorder broke forth, when —

The servants secured the monster, — Bradshaw entered the chaise and raised the lovely body : — the ball had passed through her heart ! —

“ We returned, I told you ; — the roads were but indifferent ; — we clapped a couple more horses for the sake of expedition ; — they had not got much above thirty miles. —

Bradshaw and myself supported — across our laps she lay ; — and we as anxiously guarded against every shock of the carriage as if — but the tenderness was needless — All sense of suffering was at an end.

The moon shone full upon her dear face ; — I closed her eyes ; — that was not the business I hoped to have been engaged in—the very day too—

Could any one behold her, and be an infidel ; — the happiness that waited her was poor and despicable to what she now enjoys—and may Finly follow her, and I shall be resigned.

This world is not the place our foolish impious hearts should doat upon ; yet such is the infirmity and corruption of our nature that common incidents affect us, for a short period only ;—the death that is preceded by what we call a natural cause, passes soon off our minds ; — and our extravagant and absurd attachment to our follies is renewed, — unmindful that the next summons may reach ourselves.

Providence, therefore, in mercy visits us with such great calamities, as I have now so imperfectly described,—and shall we not read all the meaning of it?— Beauty, fortune, youth, and virtue, at once were
blasted,

blasted, as a proof of the vanity of the first ;—and that the reward of the last is lodged beyond the grave.

She has died for the benefit, the eternal advantage, of those for whom she would have lived : — we that survive, tremble at the horrible catastrophe ! — but the beloved sufferer's pang was merely momentary ! — and Lord Finly, once delivered from his deplorable state and the composure of a Christian, will once more be mine.

I must acknowledge, that nothing ever touched me nearer than this Lady's misfortunes.

—But, my young friend, I have been frequently taught that lesson of morality, that can never be learnt in the temple of gaiety. Many dear companions have dropped at my feet ! — the arrows of death flown every-where around me ! — yet was I preserved to extract a blessing from the calamity of those I held so dear ! — Forgive the reflections

of an old man, whose love of the dead can never be extinguished, and whose good wishes for the living will terminate only with his existence.

I am, sir, &c. SHUGBURGH.



LETTER LXXVI.

Mr. BRADSHAW to Mr. FLEETWOOD,

FINLY is gone; — in every respect favoured beyond your friend; — the happiest lover, and the happiest mourner.

They will be buried together, — and I will attend them.

Lord Kennington is greatly altered; — but who is not, that ever knew the lovely sufferer!

The wretch will receive the common punishment the law inflicts; but it is abundantly too lenient for such a butcher!

A servant in Lord Kennington's family, it appears, was in league with him:

—he

—he has escaped for the present; but misery will overtake him.

We are to embark as soon as the melancholy office is performed! Was it not for the worthy Shugburgh, we should lose our humanity in our affliction!

But it is at best most hardly sustained!

Mr. and Mrs. Fleetwood,—Oh, meet us at Chester!, and help to cheer them! —I can do nothing,—even for myself.—

Lady Sarah is the only rational person: —her heart is flint — and secure from every impression.

Adieu, my friend! What were your trials in comparison of mine?—But Mr. Shugburgh—he shall teach us to bear our sufferings with propriety, and derive benefit from every pang!

THE END OF THE SECOND VOLUME.